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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No.4.....

pp. 950 - 1180

68530

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1943

PALESTINE

23 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

E 950/4/31.

FROM

A H Paynter

No.

Colonial Office

Dated

21/1/48

Received

in Registry

15 Jan

23 -

Last Paper.

935

References.

68530

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Paris 138
Tel. M. K. Del
Rptd New York.

279

Jan 21.

8, Watkinson, CC

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Q. M.

ON 27/1

Jan 23

(Action
completed.)

P. M. 26/1

(Index)

26/1/48

Next Paper.

981

Residential Qualification in City of Jerusalem
 report of wide-memoire to form basis of
 representations to the French Govt about the
 attitude of their Representatives, Garreaud, on
 the Trusteeship Council in connection with
 the qualifying period for residence in Jerusalem.
 Enclosed copy of letter to his O. Bureau from the
 Bishop of Jerusalem. 5/1.

(Minutes.)

273. 24/1

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The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

My Reference

15th January, 1948.

Your Reference

SECRET

E 550

my dear Wright,

23 JAN 1948

One of the things we promised to do at our meeting yesterday about Jerusalem was to send you a draft of an aide-memoire to form the basis of representations to the French Government about the attitude of their Representative, Garreau, on the Trusteeship Council in connection with the qualifying period for residence in Jerusalem. I now enclose a draft which I hope will meet the case. We will also put the point to our French colleagues who are over here in London.

I take this opportunity of also sending to you a copy of the letter to Burns from the Bishop of Jerusalem which we referred to at the meeting.

Yours ever
A.H. Poynton

M.R. WRIGHT, ESQ., C.M.G.

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4

The importance of having a reasonably long qualifying period for residence arises mainly from the third of these provisions. The first, for example, is not of such vital importance because the draft Statute will make provision for a suitably balanced Legislative Council. At the end of the ten-year period, however, if the position of Jerusalem, as the centre of three important religions, including the Christian religion, is to be properly safeguarded, it is essential to prevent the result of the referendum being swayed by an influx of voters of one particular race or religion who are not in any true sense of the word residents of Jerusalem. There are already signs that the Jews will attempt to pack the voting in this way and that Jewish representative bodies will argue in favour of a very short qualifying period.

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COPY

5 January 1948.

Dear Sir Alan Burns,

Mr. Ivor Thomas, who is due to arrive in Jerusalem tomorrow, has suggested that I should write direct, and at once, to you about certain points in the Palestine settlement which are very much exercising not my mind only but the minds of most Christian representatives in Jerusalem. May I put them as briefly as I can?

1. Part III.D. of the United Nations resolution: Duration of the Special Regime. There is serious perturbation as to whether this section implies that the whole conception of an international State of Jerusalem may disappear after ten years. I myself believe that it implies only that the nature and structure of its government may be modified after the ten year period. But if there is any ambiguity about it, if there is any possibility of its meaning that the Jerusalem State may in ten years' time be handed over to the Jewish or Arab State, there can be no peace in Jerusalem during these ten years. All the pressure of penetration by illegal immigration and otherwise, which has been the bane of Palestine for twenty years, will be concentrated in the next ten years on the few square miles of international Jerusalem. If on the other hand I am right in my interpretation of this section, is it possible to make clear once and for all that the international State of Jerusalem is to remain international for ever?

2. There is very grave disquiet, which I have reason to believe is shared by Government, as to security, particularly for Christians and those who are neither Arabs nor Jews, when the present Mandatory Government goes. Even to-day, with large forces of troops and British police, normal life in Jerusalem has almost completely broken down. Public services are largely at a standstill; personal security is worse than I have ever known it in more than twenty years' residence here; and large numbers of innocent people are being driven to evacuate their homes because they dare no longer live in them. With the future Jerusalem (quite properly) demilitarized, and with the proposed international police force, presumably composed of men who speak neither Arabic nor Hebrew, the prospect for non-combatant citizens is grim indeed. It is to be presumed that the wholly Jewish or wholly Arab areas will be able to govern themselves in their own fashion, at the cost of open warfare on their borders, but it seems that the mixed cities, and particularly Jerusalem, must inevitably become a battle ground for the two races. Indeed it has already become so, though it is common knowledge that the Arab reaction to partition will not begin in earnest until the Mandatory Government has left. At present the National Guards of both sides claim that their actions are purely defensive, and that any aggression is either of the nature of a reprisal, or is the action of irresponsible elements whom the leaders repudiate.

3. In giving evidence before the Special Committee in Jerusalem, I have endeavoured to make a point which it seems has not yet been appreciated. The Committee's Report and the Assembly's resolution abound in assurances of religious freedom for all, but there is no specific guarantee of the right of conversion. Doubtless to the Western mind, religious freedom includes the right of conversion, but it is not so to the Middle Eastern mind, whether Muslim or Jew. When either of these speaks of religious freedom he means the recognition of the right of persons not born Muslim or Jew to worship as their fathers worshipped. But his own religion, whether Muslim or Jew, specifically attaches civil disabilities such as disinheritance (and even in theory death

Sir Alan Burns, G.C.M.G.,
c/o Trusteeship Council,
Lake Success, New York.

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death) as well as the purely social disabilities of ostracism, loss of employment, and probably eviction from home, to any Muslim or Jew who becomes a Christian. That is part of the religion of a Muslim or a Jew and, in claiming religious freedom for himself, he inevitably denies religious freedom (as we conceive it) to other people. Is it too late to ensure that religious freedom shall be defined in some such way as to protect converts?

I may perhaps add that, in preparing our evidence for the Special Committee, the Scottish Moderator and I were in close consultation with the three Patriarchs, Latin, Greek and Armenian. Unfortunately the Arab boycott of the Special Committee caused the two latter to withdraw from the joint action which we were contemplating. The Latin Patriarch and I then agreed to act independently but remained in consultation until his death, and I know that he felt that we might possibly resume corporate action in making representations direct to New York; I have not consulted the present Administrator, who is an Arab by race and would inevitably be embarrassed, but I feel sure that His late Beatitude would have been in cordial agreement with all that I have written.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) WESTON,

Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem.

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Registry
No.

XXXXXX
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Confidential
XXXXXX
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Draft.

PARIS

Telegram.

No. 138

(Date) Jan 21/48

Repeat to:—

U.K. Delegation,
New York, 249
Jerusalem.

C.D. concurs.

~~Excluded~~
~~Cypher.~~

Distribution:—

World Organisation

Copies to:—

IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

GIANT

20th January, 1948

Despatched

M.

Addressed to Paris telegram No. 138. Jan 21/48
repeated to U.K. Delegation New York and to
Jerusalem.

A working group of the Trusteeship
Council are at present drafting a Statute for
Jerusalem in accordance with the resolution on
Palestine adopted by the General Assembly on the
29th November. One of the issues under
discussion is the length of the qualifying
period for "residents" in the city. The United
Kingdom representative is pressing for a period
of five or at least three years. ^{The French} ~~His French~~
^{representative on the Trusteeship Council,}
~~colleague,~~ M. Garreau, has expressed himself
in favour of a qualifying period of six months
only. Garreau argues that this is the period
required to establish voting rights under the
French Constitution and that a longer period
would not be democratic. The United Kingdom
representative feels that he may not have
appreciated the special considerations which
make this analogy inapplicable to the situation
in Jerusalem, and I should be glad if you would
explain these to the French Government and ask
them to send instructions on the point to their
representative on the Trusteeship Council.

2. The General Assembly's Palestine
resolution confers the following rights on
"residents" of the city of Jerusalem:

(a) Subject to certain reservations,
all residents automatically become

/ citizens;

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13556) Wt. 4.0897-140 100m 347 U.S.S. Gp 620

CYPHER

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(c) After ten years "the residents of the city shall be free to express by means of a referendum their wishes as to possible modification of the régime of the city". The Statute will then be subject to re-examination by the ^{Trusteeship} Council.

4. I am sure that the French Government will not wish to leave open any loop^hole which might result in the disappearance of the separate régime in Jerusalem, and ^{I trust} that they will suitably instruct their representative as a result of your explanation of our position.

You should know that the Colonial Office have already spoken in the sense of this telegram to officials of the French ~~Colonial~~ Ministry ~~on a visit to London~~ of Overseas France who recently visited London.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Cypher/GTP
Confidential

WORLD ORGANIZATION DISSEMINATION 7

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 138

D. 9.25 p.m. 21st January, 1948.

21st January, 1948.

Repeated to New York U.K. Del. No. 279
Jerusalem

IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL
SECRET

Addressed to Paris telegram No. 138 January 21st
repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York and to
Jerusalem.

A working group of the Trusteeship Council are at present drafting a Statute for Jerusalem in accordance with the resolution on Palestine adopted by the General Assembly on the 29th November. One of the issues under discussion is the length of the qualifying period for "residence" in the city. The United Kingdom representative is pressing for a period of five or at least three years. The French representative on the Trusteeship Council, M. Garreau, has expressed himself in favour of a qualifying period of six months only. Garreau argues that this is the period required to establish voting rights under the French Constitution and that a longer period would not be democratic. The United Kingdom representative feels that he may not have appreciated the special considerations which make this analogy inapplicable to the situation in Jerusalem, and I should be glad if you would explain these to the French Government and ask them to send instructions on the point to their representative on the Trusteeship Council.

2. The General Assembly's Palestine resolution confers the following rights on "residents" of the city of Jerusalem:

(a) Subject to certain reservations, all residents automatically become citizens;

(b) The Legislative Council is to be elected by the adult residents;

(c) After ten years "the residents of the city shall be free to express by means of a referendum their wishes as to possible modification of the régime of the city". The Statute will then be subject to re-examination by the Trusteeship Council.

3. The second of these provisions does not create any problem, since it is proposed to allocate a fixed number of seats to both Arabs and Jews on the Legislative Council. The danger arises from the third provision, which seems to leave open the possibility that the Trusteeship Council, might, in the light of the referendum to be taken after ten years, recommend the termination of the international régime in Jerusalem. There is little doubt that the Jewish State will wish to annex Jerusalem

/and there

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- 2 -

and there are already signs that it will attempt to influence the result of the referendum by sending large numbers of Jews to reside in Jerusalem for the purpose of voting.

4. I am sure that the French Government will not wish to leave open any loophole which might result in the disappearance of the separate régime in Jerusalem, and I trust that they will suitably instruct their representative as a result of your explanation of our position. You should know that the Colonial Office has already spoken in the sense of this telegram to officials of the French Ministry of Overseas France who recently visited London.

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42

1948

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E 981

8

23 JAN 1948

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

E981/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

U.K. Del

Dated

New York

Received
in Registry

165

22 Jan

23 -

Last Paper.

950

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Whitham, 80
Entered at off

M-132

M04

Admby

A-M

Jan 23

(Action
completed.)

E981/4/31

(Index)

E981/4/31

Next Paper.

982

30471 F.O.F.

Political Legislation
 for summary from Fletcher back.
 Take information as points of legislation,
 instead of actual legislation will be required,
 would like summary by telegram with copy of
 draft legislation by post bag.

(Minutes.)

HAB. 231
11

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E 081 F 9
23 JAN 1948
[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 165

D. 4.01 p.m. 22nd January 1948.

22nd January 1948.

R. 9.32 p.m. 22nd January 1948.

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Addressed to High Commissioner Jerusalem telegram No. 22 of 22nd January, repeated to Foreign Office and Saving to Washington.

Following for Gurney from Fletcher-Cooke.

Grateful for information as to whether legislation providing for

(a) general relaxation of Central Government's control over activities of local authorities and

(b) temporary suspension of remaining control after the termination of the Mandate has as yet been passed and if not, for indication as to when it will be passed.

2. Details of actual legislation will also be required and I should, therefore, be grateful for summary by telegram with copy of draft legislation by fastest bag.

3. Similar information is also required as to legislation implementing proposal to make local authorities responsible for collection and disbursement of urban property tax with effect from 1st April 1948.

4. Any further information regarding the position and activities of local authorities after the termination of the Mandate would also be most helpful.

Please pass Immediate to Colonial Office for Martin and Immediate to Jerusalem.

[Copies sent to Colonial Office (for Martin) and for transmission to Jerusalem].

TTTTTT

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E 982

10

1948

PALESTINE

23 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

E982/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

11 N. 101

Dated

11/10/48

Received

in Registry

166

22 Jan

23 -

Depersonalised for UN Commission
Rfr New York tel 161 (E 982/4/31) which went off
timidly after meeting with Benche and right other
important members of the staff.
Document lost if point discussed at this
meeting.

Last Paper.

981

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Walthamstow. 80
Entered but off
M.1.3a
M.64
admiralty
G.M.

Jan 23²⁴
on E981

(Action
completed.)

PP 17/2
2/10/48

(Index.)

24/1/48

Next Paper.

1020

(Minutes.)

1. The points in this telegram which require an answer are dealt with in a draft answer to New York tel. no 161, now circulating with the draft answer intended copy of that tel.
2. Mr. Burrows has suggested that the documents given to the Commissioners (see para. 3 within and the draft answer mentioned above) might also be communicated to Arab hosts. This would no doubt give them material for protests, but it would probably be better than leaving them to protest on the basis of extravagant and damaging rumours about our attitude. If we give them the documents, they should also go to Pakistan and India.
3. I think it would be a good idea if this series of telegrams was "depersonalised".

No. 3 above
now arranged.

H.B. 26/1

H.B. 24/1

Dr Samali particularly
asked

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30 3

LOREL HAD ES

asked that we should give copies
of our replies to the Commission
to Arab Courts. Otherwise the Jews
would have a considerable advantage.
I think there is force in this.

J. M. Furrow

28.1

Wills

27.1

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E 082

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CYPHER/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 166.

D: 5.52 p.m. 22nd January, 1948.

22nd January, 1948.

R: 12.23 a.m. 23rd January, 1948.

Repeated to: Jerusalem,
Washington Saving.

IMMEDIATE

GIANT

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 166 of 22nd January repeated Jerusalem and Saving to Washington.

SECRET

Following for Martin Colonial Office from Trafford Smith.

My telegram No. 161 was hurriedly sent off between conclusion of meeting with Commission and start of informal meeting between Bunche and eight other principal members of his staff and Fletcher-Cooke and myself which lasted till 10.15 p.m.

2. At meeting with Commission in addition to answer to immigration question two papers were read by Sir A. Cadogan, the first a detailed statement on the security position in Palestine based on the various situation telegrams received from Jerusalem, the second a first list of questions which will have to be discussed with the Commission together with factual comment on some of them. Fletcher-Cooke was closely cross-examined for a considerable time principally on the security situation.

3. Arrangements have been made for copies of answers to questions and the two papers (but not Cadogan's first statement of all concerning plan of military withdrawal) to be given to the Canadian and United States delegations. Unless you see objection this procedure will be followed in future in respect of papers given to the Commission except those of a specially secret character. Other permanent (white) Dominion delegations will be kept currently informed but not (repeat not) given copies of documents.

4. The subsequent informal talk with Bunche and his staff was most illuminating and provided our first real insight into the Commission's approach to its problems. In general Bunche took the line that His Majesty's Government are now being considerably more obstructive towards Commission than was apparent from their statements during the General Assembly. He trusted that in adopting their present attitude His Majesty's Government had fully in mind the possible serious repercussions on the future of the United Nations Organisation as a whole.

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5. The instance of His Majesty's Government's "obstructive-ness" to which he attached most importance was the refusal to agree to the Commission's arrival in Palestine earlier than a fortnight before termination of the mandate. The Commission he said proposed to make a serious attempt to implement the time-table laid down in the plan. To this end they might well wish to go to Palestine during March in order to attempt to establish provisional councils of Government on April 1st. He asked whether there was any likelihood that His Majesty's Government would be willing to extend the carry-over period to make this possible. I said that my own impression was that His Majesty's Government would not wish to obstruct the arrival of the Commission at some date earlier than May 1st if they decided that was necessary but that His Majesty's Government would be most unlikely to agree to extend the period during which the Commission would be in Palestine while His Majesty's Government were still responsible for security. Thus the decision would probably be to terminate the mandate a fortnight after the Commission's arrival no matter what disruption this might cause to present plans.

6. At this indication of likelihood of a firm stand by His Majesty's Government on the fortnight carry-over period Bunche referred to the extreme difficulties this would create for the Commission in getting a new administrative machine going especially if there were difficulties as regards the earlier entry into Palestine of members of the Commission's staff (paragraph 2 of my telegram under reference). It emerged that points he wished to get clear in this regard are the following:-

(a) Will His Majesty's Government permit secondment of British personnel e.g. heads of departments to Commission to provide continuity during change-over of administration (this is question 15 of Section B of my telegram No. 142).

(b) If not will His Majesty's Government permit entry into Palestine as soon as they can be found by the Commission of personnel of embryo Palestine administration to sit alongside present holders of posts and learn their jobs?

(c) In any case Commission will wish to send some of the personnel of its own secretariat (i.e. not intended for the future Palestine administrative machine) as soon as possible to make arrangements for reception of Commission and to do whatever is possible before Commission's arrival in regard to establishing contacts with Jewish and Arab leaders etc.

7. In general Bunche did not see how Commission could get very far with its task except on the spot in Palestine but since that appeared to be ruled out for the present he thought the Commission might wish to move to London to continue negotiations there.

8. Bunche stressed the importance to the Commission of the time factor if their programme was to be adhered to. They attached particular importance to receiving the earliest possible answers to questions in Section A. on security on my telegram No. 142 and

/to

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to question 15 referred to above on possible secondment of British personnel.

9. Atmosphere of both formal session with Commission and talks with Bunche and his colleagues afterwards was cordial. At former Lisicky and Federspiel especially were helpful in handling questions and in fending off Panamanian delegate who at times showed signs of troublesome attitude especially on security matters. Bolivian delegate took no part in the proceedings and Philippine delegate seemed principally concerned whether present situation in Palestine constituted a breach of the peace. His other questions related to communications with Palestine and similar matters which indicated a complete lack of knowledge of the background.

Please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 23.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office for Mr. Martin and repetition to Jerusalem.]

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44

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E 1020¹³

24 JAN 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry
Number
FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E1020/4/31

1st

Minute

Prime Minister

P.M. 48/15

21 Jan

24 -

Palestine, H.M.G. Policy.
During the delivery of Palestine ^{relation} papers that
all public proceedings in the House on
Palestine should be closed personally by the
Minister of Defence, 1st Baronet or in his
absence by the Prime Minister)

Last Paper.

982

References.

(Minutes.)

For the origin of this minute,
please see E. 1018/4/21
Contents noted.

Mr. Beith *sec.*

28 Jan

H. Beeth 24/1

18AB3

26-1

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. P. L. M. Delphy & Price 22/1

Noted

H. Beeth 30/1

(Action
completed.)

E. 1020/4/31

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24/2/48

Next Paper.

1021

29470 F.O.P.

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

$$\begin{array}{r} E - E \\ \hline E \end{array} \quad 14$$

Palestine.
Please see the attached minute which the Foreign Secretary has sent to the Prime Minister. An answer given ~~to a question~~ asked by Brigadier Low on the 20th January, is the immediate cause of the Secretary of State's wish that Ministers should be consulted personally. (See Col. 21, of Hansard, Volume 446, No. 45.) *The SFS will be glad if the Dept will ensure that the procedure he has suggested to the P.M. is observed by us.*

21st January, 1948.

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never.

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P.M./48/15.

PRIME MINISTER.

E 1020

24 JAN 1948

15

The situation in Palestine is so delicate that I feel it essential, if we are to keep our policy straight, that any public pronouncements, including the answers to any questions in the House on Palestine, should be cleared personally by the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or myself (or in my absence by you). If this is not done, I feel that we may find ourselves in serious trouble, and I am sure that, in present circumstances, statements on Palestine should not be cleared between officials.

2. I am issuing instructions to my department that they must clear any such statements personally with the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and myself, and I hope you will feel able to issue a general directive in this sense.

3. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Minister of Defence and to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

21st January, 1948.

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S/S
Mr. R. R. Dawson
Eastern Rpt

24/1
10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

Enter
16
E

22nd January, 1948

700
INDEXED

E1020 / 4 / R1

Dear Private Secretary,

The Prime Minister is impressed by the particular importance, while the present delicate situation in Palestine continues, of ensuring that no misunderstanding of His Majesty's Government's policy and intentions can justifiably arise. He has therefore directed that any public pronouncement concerning Palestine by any member of the Government should be cleared not merely with the Departments concerned on the official level, but personally with the Foreign Secretary (or in his absence with the Prime Minister himself), the Minister of Defence and the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I should be grateful if you would bring this directive to the notice of all those in your Department who may be affected by it.

Yours sincerely,

L. M. L. S. by

The Private Secretary,
Foreign Office

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Have seen Mr. de Kiewit in the morning and what I spoke to you after yesterday. 17
P.M./48/15.

PRIME MINISTER.

The situation in Palestine is so delicate that I feel it essential, if we are to keep our policy straight, that any public pronouncements, including the answers to any questions in the House on Palestine, should be cleared personally by the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, ^{and} myself (or in my absence by you). If this is not done, I feel that we may find ourselves in serious trouble, and I am sure that, in present circumstances, statements on Palestine should not be cleared between officials.

2. I am issuing instructions to my department that they must clear any such statements personally with the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and myself, and I hope you will feel able to issue a general directive in this sense.

3. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Minister of Defence and to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Sd.) ERNEST BEVIN

21st January, 1948.

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E

E 1021

18

1948

PALESTINE

24 JAN 1948

Registry

Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received

in Registry

E 1021/4/31

70 minute

14 Jan

24 -

Convenation, 1st, and 2nd Progi Ministers

Transmits brief for 1st Progi convenation
with Progi Ministers on Palestine. 4
to place at Portsmouth Jan 21.

Last Paper.

1020

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

See within: F.O. Minute Mr. Roberts. 16 Jan.

H.B. 24/1

H.B. 27/2

(Action
completed.)

P.C. 26/1

(Index)

28/11/48

Next Paper.

1046

29470 F.O.P.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371/68530

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Mr. Wright.

Attached is the brief for the Secretary of State's conversation on Palestine with the Iraqis ~~to-morrow~~. An earlier draft was shown to the Colonial Secretary, and certain amendments which he suggested have been incorporated in the present text.

The Colonial Secretary does not agree with the side-lined passage beginning at the bottom of page 2. He considers:-

(i) that we should not commit ourselves to the Arabs as to our course of action in a hypothetical situation.

(ii) that to argue in the Security Council against enforcement action would be inconsistent with the line we took in the General Assembly when we insisted that any proposals for the future of Palestine should be accompanied by provisions for their effective enforcement.

The answer to the second argument, I think, is that when we told the Assembly that they must consider the enforcement, we hoped that the realisation of this element in the problem would induce them to make recommendations which would not arouse the irreconcilable antagonism of either side. In fact, their recommendations have ~~not~~ meant conflict in Palestine inevitable. From the point of view of British interests, it is desirable that this conflict should be localised as ~~firmly~~ as possible. If this estimate of British interests an accurate one, surely we should feel free to argue in the Security Council that the situation in Palestine is radically changed by ~~its~~ recommendation and that the threat to peace and security would probably increase by any form of external intervention.

H. Beeley
H. Beeley.
14th January, 1948.

Yes. It had been arranged with the Colonial Office that Sir O Sargent

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

since the Assembly

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Minutes.

and I might discuss this with
the S of S for the Colonies in the train
down to morning. But Mr. Cress Jones
is now travelling by car. He has
accordingly agreed that his
points should be put by us
to Mr. Benn, by whose decision
he is content to abide.

WCB

14.1

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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is a
copy of
Cable*

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E 1021

PALESTINE 24 JAN 1948

It is anticipated that the Iraqi Ministers will discuss Palestine with the Secretary of State at Portsmouth. Among others, they are likely to raise the following points:-

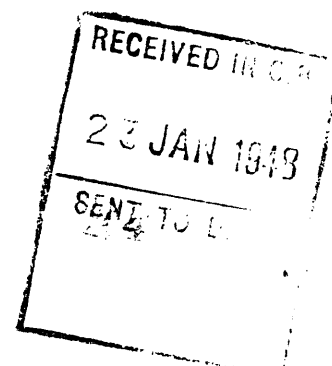
- (a) Will H.M.G. advance the date for ending the mandate and withdrawing their troops?
- (b) The Arab Governments contend that the decision of the Assembly is ultra vires and illegal: will H.M.G. do anything to support this view?
- (c) Will H.M.G. use their veto on the Security Council to block any proposal for the implementation by force of partition?
- (d) What will be the attitude of H.M.G. if the Arab States send armies into Palestine?

I suggest that we should take the following general line.

H.M.G. fixed the date for terminating the mandate at the 15th May and the date for the completion of their military withdrawal at the 1st August because of the practical difficulties in the way of action sooner. They are constantly reviewing the position to see whether earlier dates are possible. We cannot hold out any hope that the dates can be advanced, but will continue to keep the situation under review.

The legal validity of the decision taken by the United Nations may be a matter for discussion, but it is not likely that the Security Council would challenge it or that the Assembly would reverse its decision on legal grounds. Furthermore, if this question/

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question were referred to the International Court, the judgment of the latter would come too late to influence the course of events in Palestine during the critical months which lie ahead.

Arising out of their contention that the decision of the Assembly was illegal, the Iraqi Ministers may challenge the right of H.M.G. to "hand over the mandate" to the United Nations Commission. The line we have always taken on this question is that we are not handing over the mandate to anybody. We are terminating the mandate. Faced with this decision taken by H.M.G., the General Assembly decided upon arrangements for the establishment of a new régime in Palestine. They endeavoured to adjust these arrangements to our plan for withdrawal and, as a good member of the United Nations, we are bound to discuss with the United Nations Commission the date of their arrival in the country and to keep them informed of our own plans. This does not imply any opinion, on the part of H.M.G., for or against the legality of the decision taken by the General Assembly.

Sooner or later, the question of Palestine will presumably come before the Security Council. The issue may be raised in a variety of ways, and H.M.G. cannot pledge themselves in advance as to the exact line they will take in the Council, but clearly it would not be easy for them to make use of the veto in order to obstruct the will of the General Assembly. On the other hand, the Secretary of State has already made it clear (in the House of Commons on the 12th December) that they will not themselves take part in any attempt by the Security Council to impose a decision by force. In their opinion,

any/

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any attempt now to impose a decision by means of external force would be a mistake and would prejudice what they have always held to be the essential condition for a final solution, namely, direct agreement between Arabs and Jews. They not only take this view, but are prepared to urge it on the Security Council.

By their actions in the coming months, the Arab States can make it easier or more difficult for us to adopt this attitude with the Security Council. H.M.G. fully appreciate the strength of feeling in the Arab countries against partition. They have appealed to the Arab countries, and renew this appeal now, to ensure that everything possible may be done to avoid conflict between the Arabs and the British forces during the period of withdrawal. Beyond this stage, we hope that the Arab Governments will find it possible to express their opposition to the proposals of the General Assembly without violating their obligations under the United Nations Charter. It is to nobody's advantage that a conflagration should occur in the Middle East; indeed other external interests could considerably exploit such a conflict to their own advantage. If the Arabs took action which would enable the Security Council to condemn them as aggressors, they would put themselves in the wrong and would increase the danger of other external intervention in Palestine. If the Security Council should find it necessary to take action to enforce the General Assembly's recommendations, the result would surely be disadvantageous to the Arab cause.

The best hope of a solution seems to lie in the two parties in Palestine confronting each other direct, and in both sides realising that a compromise is necessary through conciliation. If H.M.G. can help in this at any stage they are ready to do so, whether within/

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within the United Nations or outside it.

So long as they retain the mandate, H.M.G. have their hands tied by the obligations it imposes upon them. Once the mandate is terminated, they will be more free to conduct their policy in the Middle East and they would like to see this based upon still closer friendship, expressed through common defence arrangements and in other ways, between the Arab countries and themselves.

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22

1021 4 31

Mr. Burrows

Copy to: Mr. Dunbar
Mr. Busk

INDEXED

As you know, it was technically impossible for the Secretary of State

- (a) to discuss Palestine with the Iraqi Ministers yesterday, or
- (b) to sign the secret exchange of letters which we had hoped would be done at the Palestine talk.

It seems to me that the most practicable arrangement will now be for us to arrange for both these things to take place on the 21st January, either just before or just after the lunch which the Iraqi Prime Minister is giving to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State. Will you please clear this with the Iraqis and keep in touch with us to arrange definite times?

Handwritten signature

16th January, 1948.

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E 1046

23

1948

PALESTINE

24 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

E1046/4/11

TELEGRAM FROM

U.K. Del

No.

New York.

Dated

175

Received
in Registry

23 Jan

24 -

Reproach for U.N. Commission
 List of administrative problems was presented to Commission
 on 21 Jan. from list of further questions from
 Commission re its own security and independence
 of fact & fact.

ANALYSTED TERMINAL 26.

Last Paper.

1021

References.

(Print.)

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admiral

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Jan 27 on

E1154

(Action
completed.)

GCB 28/1

(Index.)

24/4/48

Next Paper.

1047

(Minutes.)

This is going to cross the wires. I think
 all Jerusalem's answers to questions of this
 kind should be made subject to confirmation
 from London.

A tel. has now been
 sent to New York on
 the lines suggested above.

H.B. 261

see E1047/4/11

H.B. 261

B. 150

26.1

En-P.P. Picture tel 209 28/1

En-P.P. Picture tel 277 3/2

H.B. 37

H.B. 51

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Cypher/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 175

23rd January, 1948

D. 5.09 p.m. 23rd January, 1948
R. 10.44 p.m. 23rd January, 1948

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

E 1040

Addressed to High Commissioner Jerusalem
No. 26 of 23rd January, repeated to Foreign Office and
Saving to Washington.

Following for Gurney from Fletcher-Cooke.

[Begins]

Your telegram No. 166. - E

As you will see from paragraph 2 of our telegram to Foreign Office (repeated No. 23 to you) list of administrative problems was presented to the Commission on 21st January and I supplemented this with oral answers to certain questions. Note as submitted was based on, but in some respects different from, draft which Gibson brought to you. Copy is on its way to you with explanatory letter.

2. Commission were grateful for this statement of problems but they appear to take the line that no further progress can be made on administrative and financial matters until they have received answers to questions set out in our telegram No. 142 to Foreign Office (repeated as No. 15 to you) - particularly answers to security questions in Part A, and questions 3 and 15 in Part B dealing with security of the Commission itself and secondment of British personnel.

3. As regards question 3 of Part B, Commission wish to have detailed information as follows:-

(A) Assuming that it arrives at Lydda and proceeds to Jerusalem, what arrangements will be made for transport and security during the journey?

(B) What arrangements will be made for the Commission's accommodation and security in Jerusalem during the fortnight hand-over period?

(C) What arrangements will be made for transport and security if the Commission decide to move about during this fortnight?

Please pass to Jerusalem Immediate and to Colonial Office for Martin.

[Advance copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for Mr. Martin and repetition to Jerusalem.]

888

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 28th January, 1948.

R. 28th " " 15.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE.

No. 209 Secret.

Addressed U.K. Delegation (Washington please pass as my No. 222).

Repeated S. of S.
" Washington No. 42.

Your telegram No. 26, paragraph 3.

We could arrange transport and security for journey from Lydda to Jerusalem, but it would be in staff's own interests that they should arrange their accommodation and security thereafter, both in Jerusalem and outside. We do not yet know the number involved or what accommodation the Commission wants.

2. I have, however, been considering whether it is wise to bring the Commission to Jerusalem at all, since their arrival and presence here would certainly introduce a most disturbing element into the Holy City, which might otherwise by then be comparatively peaceful. It would be most unfortunate if genuine desire of all communities for peace in Jerusalem and hopes of Trusteeship Council for its future (corrupt group) were to be frustrated by effects of the physical presence of the Commission in Jerusalem, particularly since this does not now seem to be really necessary.

(?3 omitted) The objection to their establishing themselves in Tel Aviv has been that they would thereby burn their boats with the Arabs, but, since it is clear that the Arabs will have nothing to do with them anyhow, this objection loses force. It is, however, still an objection, and I feel that the Commission themselves will wish to avoid so close an identification with the Jews.

4. An alternative is Aqir. This is in Jewish State about three kilometres south of Rehovoth, but easily accessible to Arabs, being only about seven kilometres from Ramleh. It is a large, (accessible station), having accommodation for at least 1,500, with a first class air field, which might interest the Commission seeing that we do not foresee Lydda remaining open after 15th May. Tenders for the purchase of this and other possibly suitable military camps are now being considered and (corrupt group) is beginning, so that we require immediate information if the Commission are interested.

5. I appreciate that these considerations are overshadowed by broader issues, but should be glad if effect of above could be conveyed to the Commission without delay.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. E. Beeley
War Office (M.O.4) - Lt. Col. M.M. Charteris

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

(Cyril (O.T.P.))



FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 3rd February, 1948.

R. 3rd " " 16.21 hrs.

URGENT

No. 277 Secret.

Addressed U.K. Delegation No. 268
(Washington please pass)
Repeated S. of S.

Following for Fletcher Cooke.

Grateful if you would inform me whether
effect of our telegram No. 222 has been conveyed to
Commission and what their reaction is.

2. It is no doubt not being overlooked that
the second half of April includes the Passover and
Neha Kasa ceremonies ending in Holy Fire, and the
addition of any fuel during this period in Jerusalem
is particularly undesirable.

3. Many thanks for your letter of 20th January.
Reference to railways and ports on page 3 of enclosed
memorandum is not quite right. Intention is to transfer
the whole of the railways and ports administration
to the Commission on 15th May, but British staff
remaining would be employed by General Officer
Commanding, who would instruct the management to operate
the railway and Haifa Port so as to meet his requirements
and would, if necessary, himself employ the railway and
Haifa Port staff required for his purposes. See draft
directive for G.O.C. which you have probably now receipt
(received intended) London.

Copies sent to:
Foreign Office

- Communications Dept.

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27

1948

PALESTINE

E 1047

26 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E1047/4/31.

H. H. Bell

New York.

195

25 Jan

26 -

It is proposed to examine information
from the list of 115 containing large and small transactions
questioned. Will not give any of these answers to
committee pending instructions from London.
Also to let what replies may be made public
Should committee suggest this.

Last Paper.

1046

References.

(Minutes.)

Para 2 noted.

Tel. to New York.

H73. 247

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. Whacker, B. V.
Evered, Lab 2/1.

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Jan 28

Tel. New York 344 Jan 26

8) as above Jan 28.

(Action
completed.)

P. H. 28/1

(Index.)

P. H. 28/1

Next Paper.

1054

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28

28 JAN 1978

DEPARTMENTAL.

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

D. 2.02 p.m. 25th January 1948

R. 7.16 p.m. 25th January 1948

25th January 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem

Washington Saving.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 195 of
25th January repeated for information to Jerusalem
and Saving to Washington.

Following for Martin Colonial Office from Trafford Smith.

Reference High Commissioner's telegram No. 180 to New York repeated to Secretary of State No. 165 containing briefs on United Nations Commission's questions.

2. We shall of course not (repeat not) give any of these answers to Commission pending instructions from London. Yesterday Cadogan was again pressed by Lisicky to expedite answers.

2. In case Commission suggest publication of any of questions and replies as they did for those on immigration please indicate to what extent replies may be made public.
3. With regard to last sentence of B (7) of telegram under reference fact that no Arab staff will work for Commission has already been strongly emphasised both to Commission and to Bunche.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 28.

[Copy sent to Colonial Office for addressee and for transmission to Jerusalem].

V V V

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(13556) Wt. 40897/140 100m 3147 G.S.S. Cp 620

Registry
No. E

~~SECRET~~
Secret.
~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

Draft.

U.K. DELEGATION,
NEW YORK.

Telegram.

No. 349

(Date) 26 Jan

Repeat to:—

~~In Clair.~~
~~Codes~~
~~Cypher.~~

Distribution:—

Departmental

3.45 P

Copies to:—

Mr. Matheson,
Colonial Office.

OUT FILE

29

F.O.

194

Despatched

M.

IMMEDIATE.
~~SECRET~~

Your telegram no. 195
You will have received Jerusalem

telegram No. 165 to the Colonial Office,
repeated to you as No. 180, commenting on
your telegram No. 142. You should take no
action on this telegram until you have
received our reply, which is now in draft,
hereby to your telegram no. 142.

2. With reference to Fletcher-Cooke's
direct exchange of telegrams with Jerusalem,
please ensure ^{in the same way} that you have clearance in
telegrams from ~~Secretary of State~~ London,
before passing to ^{the} Commission any replies
other than ^{on} matters of fact. Ministers
concerned here are taking ^a close interest and
their concurrence is required in any
important pronouncement regarding Palestine.

3. It would be of advantage if
telegrams at present prefixed ^{"Stafford Smith}
^{to Martin} were sent as ordinary delegation
telegrams. Copies will be passed immediately
to the Colonial Office.

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**E.
Secret.**

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 349.

D: 4.45 p.m. 26th January, 1948.

26th January, 1948.

DATED LATE

SECRET

Your telegram No. 195.

We note that you are awaiting our reply, which is now in draft, to your telegram No. 142.

2. With reference to Fletcher-Cooke's direct exchange of telegrams with Jerusalem, please ensure in the same way that you have clearance in telegrams from London before passing to the Commission any replies other than on matters of fact. Ministers concerned here are taking a close interest and their concurrence is required in any important pronouncement regarding Palestine.

3. It would be of advantage if telegrams at present prefixed "Trafford Smith to Martin" were sent as ordinary delegation telegrams. Copies will be passed immediately to the Colonial Office.

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E 1054

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1048

PALESTINE

26 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

E1054/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in RegistryLes. O. Dekkade
Canaan

31.

28 Jan

26 -

Protection of Jerusalem Lebanese Forces.
After 10.11.31 (E907/12/31) main difficulty was
to be in the decision of the Arab League not
to accept the proposed partition. Operations of
such a scale by the Lebanon would appear to
be a hostile implication and would be attacked
in the Arab world as such.

Last Paper.

1047, 1407,

(Minutes.)

See E 1054

H.B. 2/2

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

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M.I. 32
M.I. 4
Adm. 4
Q. 1
Jan 27
On E 1154

(Action
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Cypher /OTP POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM AMMAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir A. Kirkbride D. 5.35 p.m. 23rd January 1948
No. 31
23rd January, 1948 R. 6.5 p.m. 23rd January, 1948

Repeated to Washington
Saving to Bagdad
Beirut Cairo
Cairo
Damascus
Jedda
British Middle East Office Cairo
Jerusalem

SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 31 or 23rd January, repeated to Washington, and saving to Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jedda, British Middle East Office Cairo, Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 31 about the future of Palestine.

2. Proposal that the Lebanese Government should become trustee for Jerusalem has many attractions and might be a precedent for other Arab States of moderate views assuming similar roles in other parts of Palestine outside the Jewish area.

3. Main difficulty would seem to lie in the decision of the Arab League not to accept or to implement partition. Acceptance of such a role by the Lebanon or any other state would appear to constitute implementation and would be attacked in the Arab world as such.

4. Apart from the difficulty referred to above, the reactions of Hashimite States to the Lebanese achieving eminence in Jerusalem would probably follow much the same line as would be the reactions of other members of the Arab League to Transjordan occupation of Arab areas of Palestine.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington as my telegram No. 1.

[Repeated to Washington.]

PPP

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1948

PALESTINE

E 1055

26 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E1055/4/31

Mr Houston

Boswell

Boswell

53

23 Jan

26 -

Protection of Jerusalem, Islamic Force
 After 4061 35(4907/4/31) Telegrams were in
 suggestion as to the Islamic might be asked to
 provide a contingent of guardsmen to protect city
 of Jerusalem. Islamic would probably be asked
 to attend by such a proposal.
 If this proposal stands, a reasonable chance
 of finding some favour with the Arabs.

Last Paper.

(105-4)

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Wadsworth 60
 Enclosed sub off

M.I. 3a

M104

Wadsworth

Q.M.

Jan 21 on
 E1154

(Action
completed.)

(In ex.)

27/4

27/4

Next Paper.

(1060)

1057

(Minutes.)

3/1/ Mr. Houston Boswell states three conditions
 which would have to be fulfilled before the Lebanese
 government could give favourable consideration to
 the proposal that they should assume responsibilities
 in Jerusalem:

- (i) it would have to be clear that their action
 formed no part of the U.N. plan for Palestine;
- (ii) they would have to obtain the consent of the
 Arab League.
- (iii) they would have to be reasonably certain of
 not being involved in serious complications
 with the Zionists.

The first and second of these conditions are
 also stated in the replies from other Arab posts.
 (The most unfavourable of these replies, from Cairo,
 mistakenly assumes that the object is to "further
 the partition plan"). The general impression left
 by these telegrams is that there would be a fair
 chance of agreement by the Arab League if it was
 made absolutely clear from the outset that the
 temporary arrangements ~~would~~ for the protection

30471 F.O.P

/of

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10:00 AM

of Jerusalem would not prejudice the final settlement in the city, still less in Palestine as a whole. The area occupied by the Lebanese, for instance, should not coincide with the Jerusalem area as defined by the General Assembly. (See the BMEC suggestion in E11667 that the functions of the Lebanese should be "confined to the protection of sacred sites").

The High Commissioner, on the other hand, states without argument that the proposal does not merit consideration. The Colonial Office agree with his conclusion, on the ground that a Lebanese authority would never be accepted or respected by the Zionists.

In present circumstances I think this is true. But I am not so sure that it will be later on when it has become evident that the United Nations cannot protect the city. This, incidentally, was one of the conditions stated in our outward telegram.

H. Beeley 21/2

I think we had better look at this again later on.

? S. U. in 3 weeks

B. A. B. Butler

2. 9. 1948

20/2/48

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24

POLITICAL

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

26 JAN 1948

Bagdad,
Damascus
Amman
Jerusalem
Jedda
B.M.E.O.
Washington

LIGHT.
SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.53 of
January 23rd repeated to Cairo, Bagdad, Damascus, Jedda,
Amman, British Middle East Office, Jerusalem and Washington.

Holy places.

It is probable that Lebanese in general would be much flattered by such a proposal. There might however be some uneasiness particularly amongst those Christians who, while professing solidarity with the Arabs of Palestine, are anxious to avoid involving the Lebanese in major commitments. But those same Christians might well see in the proposal some vindication of their more neutral sentiments in regard to the Palestine question as a whole. In any case it may be taken for granted that the Government would refuse even to consider the suggestion without prior authority of the Arab League and their first step would be to refer to that body.

2. It is conceivable on general grounds that Arabs might interpret such an offer as a sign of weakness of the United Nations (in fact the first crack in the United Nations Palestine structure). It might therefore to a certain extent be gratifying to them and it is probable that they will consider it a lesser evil than the establishment of an international police force for the protection of the Holy City. They would nevertheless I think insist on important reservations e.g. the acceptance by the Lebanese of the role in no way implied recognition of United Nations decision in favour of partition.

3. I agree that the performance of these duties by the Lebanese would probably arouse less jealousy than similar action by any other Arab Government. In the first place the Christian - [grp undec. ? Moslem] configuration of the Lebanon give it a prima facie claim to consideration and secondly Lebanese [grp undec ? neutrality] in the Hashemite and anti-Hashemite rivalry constitutes a decided advantage, which might even carry weight with the Mufti.

/So

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35

So is the Lebanese Army which is better equipped and more disciplined and which would probably be chosen for the role.

5. As seen from here the proposal stands a reasonable chance of finding some favour with the Arabs. As regards the Lebanese they would probably only accept the responsibility if they were reasonably certain that it would not involve them in serious complications either with the Zionists or the Arabs.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 14 and 5.

Cairo pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram No. 16.

[Repeated to Washington].

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for transmission to Jerusalem].

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E

E 1057

36

1948

PALESTINE

26 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

E1057/4/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

U.K. Tel

No.

New York

Dated

186

Received
in Registry

24 Jan

26 -

Political Security. International Force
 L/ps 4061 297 (EYI/4/31) Information
 as to details of members of the Jewish and Arab
 Part. likely to be required of international force
 in forward to members of British section of
 Political Police. Only to evaluate individuals
 for security in the past
 and any other characters.
 ADDRESSED PERUSALLA 27.

Last Paper.

1055

(Minutes.)

H.B. 261

.1

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. Haddenham B.O.
 1. Evershed Rob off

M1.3a

M104

Adair

A.M.

Jan 27 on

E1154

(Action
completed.)

E.L.H. 25/1
 25/1

(Index.)

25/1
 25/1

Next Paper.

1060

30471 F.O.P.

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Cypher/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations 28 Jan 1948)

No. 186

D. 1.49 p.m. 24th January, 1948

24th January, 1948.

R. 7.38 p.m. 24th January, 1948

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

GIANT

Addressed to Jerusalem telegram No. 27 of January 24th repeated to Foreign Office and Washington Saving.

Following for Gurney from Fletcher Cooke.

[Begins].

Reference paragraph 2 of Foreign Office telegram No. 295 of 22nd January repeated to you, grateful for information as to

(a) your estimate of numbers of non-Jewish and non-Arab personnel likely to be required if an international security force was formed for the maintenance of law and order within the boundaries of the New City of Jerusalem;

(b) numbers of British section of the Palestine Police who would be likely to volunteer as individuals for service with this force if it were formed.

2. Any other observations you may have to offer on this proposal would be most helpful.

Please pass to Colonial Office for Martin and Immediate to Jerusalem.

[Copies sent to Colonial Office for Martin and to Cypher Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

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1948

E

E 1060

38

PALESTINE

26 JAN 1948

Registry Number

E1060/4/21

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

W. Brodman

Amman

48

23 Jan
26 -

Protection of Jerusalem, Islamic Force.
After the 15th Dec 1947 (E 907/4/21) decided protection
of Jerusalem by Islamic force in any circumstances
or complete of settlement by Arab State, which
the Islamic would raise no objections.
Further whether Islamic force would be sufficient
to cope, if not direct from Syria must still be
brought in, and the result that the United aspect
of the scheme might be accepted.

Last Paper.

1057 (1055)

(Minutes.)

See E 1055

H.B. 27
12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Buchanan B7
Circled and off
n1. 3u
n104
Adm.
U.S.

Transp.
E1154

(Action completed.)

(Index)

P.L.M. 17/4

17/4/48

Next Paper.

(1166)
1069

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Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL.

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Broadmead, D: 10.37 p.m. 23rd January, 1948
No.48
23rd January, 1948. R: 11.2 p.m. 23rd January, 1948.

Repeated to Amman,
Bagdad,
Beirut,
Cairo,
Jedda,
Washington,
M.E. Minister
Jerusalem (Saving)

E 1000
26 JAN 1948

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.48, 23rd January, 1948. Repeated to Amman, Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, Washington, Middle East Minister and to Jerusalem, Saving.

Secret.

Your telegram No.38 to Beirut.

This is not an easy question to answer but provided protection of Jerusalem by the Lebanese was in no way represented as acceptance of partition by the Arab States I do not think the Syrians would raise objections. They would certainly prefer such protection to be afforded by the Lebanese rather than Transjordan forces.

2. Whether or not the Lebanese forces would be sufficient to cope with the situation is outside my province but if they were not, elements from Syria might well be called on to help them out, with the result that the Christian aspect of the scheme conceivably might be swamped.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington as my telegram No.1.

(Cairo only) Cairo please pass to Memin as my telegram No.17.

(Amman only) Amman please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram No.4. Saving.

[Repeated to Washington].

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E

1069 40

1948

PALESTINE

26 JAN '48

Registry Number E1069/4/31

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry } 23 Jan
26 -

*Article for City of Jerusalem.
transmit list of "directions" for his
to Bureau, so that he should take a UK
Representative on transfer to Egypt, as draft
Article for City of Jerusalem.*

Last Paper.

1060

References.

(Minutes.)

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*Tel. New York
no 350
Jan 26
J Matheson
Sherman
M136
M104
Graham
Air Min. Jan 28
on E1047*

(Action completed.)

J. C. 6/2

(Index)

24/4/48

Next Paper.

1091

26513 F.O.P.

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HB 5/2



23. 1. 48.

E 106

Dear Berkeley 26 JAN 1948

Here's a copy of the
"directive" for Burns,
incorporating the 70.

Amendment to para 2.

We will keep in mind
your other point - last
sentence of item 2 of the
minutes of the meeting on
14th Jan^y. Galowathy will
be at NY with Burns &
can act as King's

Remembrance on this.

PS

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Galtmuthy is now drafting
 [unclear] NY/Jerusalem
 & will probably be getting into
 touch with you about it.
 Yours ever
 [signature]

REIVED IN C.B.
 24 JAN 1943
 SENT TO DEPT.
 24 JAN 1943

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75872/154/26/
48

XXXXXXXXXXXX
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

23rd January, 1948.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Cressh Jones to refer to your recent conversation with him and subsequent discussions between officials of the Colonial Office and Foreign Office in regard to the line which you, as United Kingdom Representative on the Trusteeship Council, should be authorised to take in regard to the draft Statute for the City of Jerusalem. The extent to which the United Kingdom Representative or his alternates should take a positive line on the Council must be determined by the general consideration that it is important to avoid any action which might give ground for subsequent allegations that the Statute was of United Kingdom origin or inspiration. Provided that this risk can be avoided, it is agreed that you should have wide discretion in dealing with the matter according to your judgment.

2. In particular you will recollect that the Secretary of State told you in conversation that, subject to the concurrence of the Foreign Office, he agreed that you should take all necessary steps to prevent any unsatisfactory alterations being made by the Trusteeship Council to the draft presented by the Working Committee. The Foreign Office concur in this view and accordingly this letter gives you formal authority, subject to the overriding consideration in the preceding paragraph, to take

SIR ALAN BURNS, G.C.M.G.

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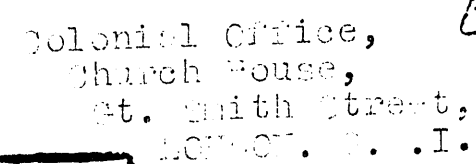
take whatever steps you consider necessary by discussion with other Representatives, by intervention in debate and by the exercise of your vote to prevent the draft Statute from being altered in the Trusteeship Council in any manner which, in your judgment, would render it unworkable or prejudice the international character of Jerusalem.

3. Furthermore, it is agreed that there is not the same necessity to avoid the appearance of United Kingdom origin in respect of the detailed instructions to be issued by the Trusteeship Council to the Governor of Jerusalem. It is recognised that these instructions deal with detailed matters of administration where precision is essential and where the accumulated experience of the United Kingdom will be invaluable. You are therefore authorised to take whatever steps you consider necessary to ensure that the text of the instructions is satisfactory.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) A.H. Poynton

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My Reference 75872/1

E 26.1269 / 4 / 51

26 January 1948.

Your Reference

Dear Baby,

I enclose a short telegram to Moscow. I am in New York, which is, I think, self-explanatory. If you see no objection, we should be grateful if you would kindly arrange for its receipt.

I also enclose a copy of our letter to
- Bureau of the 13th Front by which the Foreign Office
will no doubt wish to send to the delegation.

Yours sincerely,
Arthur Lowrey
(J. L. Lowrey)

H. ARLEY, SR., O.E.D.

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75872/154/26/
48

XXXXXXXXXXXX
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

23rd January, 1948.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Creech Jones to refer to your recent conversation with him and subsequent discussions between officials of the Colonial Office and Foreign Office in regard to the line which you, as United Kingdom Representative on the Trusteeship Council, should be authorised to take in regard to the draft Statute for the City of Jerusalem. The extent to which the United Kingdom Representative or his alternates should take a positive line on the Council must be determined by the general consideration that it is important to avoid any action which might give ground for subsequent allegations that the Statute was of United Kingdom origin or inspiration. Provided that this risk can be avoided, it is agreed that you should have wide discretion in dealing with the matter according to your judgment.

2. In particular you will recollect that the Secretary of State told you in conversation that, subject to the concurrence of the Foreign Office, he agreed that you should take all necessary steps to prevent any unsatisfactory alterations being made by the Trusteeship Council to the draft presented by the Working Committee. The Foreign Office concur in this view and accordingly this letter gives you formal authority, subject to the overriding consideration in the preceding paragraph, to take

SIR ALAN BURNS, G.C.M.G.

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3. Furthermore, it is agreed that there is not the same necessity to avoid the appearance of United Kingdom origin in respect of the detailed instructions to be issued by the Trusteeship Council to the Governor of Jerusalem. It is recognised that these instructions deal with detailed matters of administration where precision is essential and where the accumulated experience of the United Kingdom will be invaluable. You are therefore authorised to take whatever steps you consider necessary to ensure that the text of the instructions is satisfactory.

(Sgd.) A.H. Poynton

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No. E.

Draft.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

Telegram.

UK Del
New York

No. 33

(Date) 26 Jan

Repeat to :-

High Commissioner,
Jerusalem

~~En Clair.~~
~~Code.~~
Cypher.

Distribution :-

Trusteeship

Copies to :-

3.45P

IMPORTANT

CONFIDENTIAL

BUILD

F.O.

Despatched

194

M.

OUT FILE

Addressed to U.N. Delegation, New York,
tel. No. 359 on 26th Jan
repeated ~~to~~ to High Commissioner, Jerusalem.
Following for Cohen Clare from
Galworthy.

Begin.

1. Further directive has now been given
to turn on line which U.N. representative
on Trusteeship Council should take in
regard to draft Statute for Jerusalem.
Full text of letter follows by bag.
Meanwhile following are main points:-

(a) Extent to which United Nations
representative should take a positive
line ~~on the Council~~ must be determined by general
consideration that it is important to
avoid any action which might give
ground for subsequent allegations that
statute was of U.N. origin or
inspiration.

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(b) Subject to this, United Kingdom representative is given full discretion, in particular to take whatever steps he considers necessary (including intervention in debate and exercise of vote) to prevent any Statute being altered in Trusteeship Council in such a way as to render it unworkable or to give it international character of Palestine.

(c) As regards detailed Instructions to Governor, there is not (repeat not) same necessity to avoid appearance of United Kingdom origin, since the said detailed orders of administration where precision is essential and the accumulated experience of the United Kingdom will be invaluable.

(d) As regards Instructions to Governor, the Government of the United Kingdom has decided that they should be drafted in the name of the Governor, when in office, should be signed by him in the name of the Instructions for submission to the Trusteeship Council.

It is considered that this should be the basis of the decision.

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Telegram.

No.

(Date)

Repeat to :-

En Clair.
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution :-

Copies to :-

-2-

NOT F.P.R.E. 46
194 M.
Despatched

Decision, and Radio strongly that
Instructions should be drafted now
in light of the Statute. We should
like you therefore to get this decision
reversed, if *this* is at all possible at this
stage. In so, in view of paragraph
1(a) above, actual text of draft
Instructions taken either did or may
not be used, in our telegram No. 99
[of 16th January] can be disregarded.
If decision is reversed and United
Kingdom text is adopted, we should however
be glad if you could manage to get the
Belgian text to introduce Instructions
by saying that Working Committee had
expressly asked United Kingdom representatives
to furnish model for them.

W.B.

W.B. 261

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47

No. 300.

IMPORTANT.
CONFIDENTIAL.
BUILD.

[Begins].

Further directive has now been given to Burns on line which U.K. representative on Trusteeship Council should take in regard to draft Statute for Jerusalem. Full text of letter follows by bag. Meanwhile following are main points:-

(a) Extent to which United Kingdom representative should take a positive line on the Council must be determined by general consideration that it is important to avoid any action which might give ground for subsequent allegations that Statute was of U.K. origin or inspiration.

(b). Subject to this, United Kingdom representative is given wide discretion, in particular to take whatever steps he considers necessary (including intervention in debate and exercise of vote) to prevent draft Statute being altered in Trusteeship Council in such a way as to render it unworkable or prejudice international character of Jerusalem.

(C) AS regards detailed instructions to Governor, there is not (repeat not) same necessity to avoid appearance of United Kingdom origin, since they deal with detailed matters of administration where precision is essential and the accumulated experience of the United Kingdom will be invaluable.

2. As regards Instructions to Governor, we understand that the Working Committee has decided that they should be omitted from the Statute, and that Governor, when appointed, should be asked to prepare draft of the Instructions for /submission....

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submission to Trusteeship Council. Burns considers this an absurd decision, and feel strongly that Instructions should be drafted now as part of the Statute. We should like you therefore to get this decision reversed, if this is at all possible at this stage. If so, in view of paragraph 1(c) above, actual text of draft Instructions taken out by Gibson may now be used, and our telegram No. 99 [Of 8th January] can be disregarded. If decision is reversed and United Kingdom text is accepted, we should however be glad if you could manage to get the Rapporteur to introduce Instructions by saying that Working Committee had expressly asked United Kingdom representatives to furnish model for them.

[Ends].

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529	E	E 1091 48
1948	PALESTINE	26 JAN 1948

Registry Number TELEGRAM FROM No. Dated Received in Registry 191. 24 Jan 26 -	E1091/4/31 Mr. A. Cohen New York. 191. 24 Jan 26 -
--	---

Last Paper. 1011	(Minutes.) An important telegram. See the conclusion in paragraph 11.
--------------------------------	--

References. (Print.) (How disposed of.) 9. Whatheran CO Entered but off M-1-3a M04 Qdanky QM Jan 28 Rel, a 12 reel, New York. 4994 Rptd, W Yan 1435 Feb 4 PTO	Para 6. I should have thought the reasons for failure would have been plain enough, inspection of whether we granted an overlap of two weeks or two months. HB. 26/1 HB. 26/1
--	---

(Action completed.) JCM 2/2	(Index) [Signature]
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Next Paper. 1101	30471 F.O.P
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8, as above Feb 5'

Hel, New York.

498

Rated a 7 on 1440

8, above Feb 6th

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26 JAN 1948

Sir A. Cadogan, D: 5.35 p.m. 24th January, 1948
No. 191
 24th January, 1948. R: 11.02 p.m. 24th January, 1948.

GIANT.

Confidential.

M. Lisicky Chairman of Palestine Commission came for a frank and confidential talk this morning. He emphasised that he was speaking personally and not on behalf of his colleagues.

2. He of course has always known more about the problem than they have but even he as the studies of the Commission have progressed has come to be appalled at the magnitude of the task facing it.

3. He said that the Commission are all convinced that the Assembly plan cannot be implemented without a neutral force national or international to enforce it.

4. The Commission will be rendering their first regular monthly report to the Security Council on February 1st. This will be merely factual and will not make any request of the Council. But by about February 10th the Commission will send in a special report representing that the situation is such that a neutral force is essential. This will probably be put in such a way that the Council will not be able to avoid discussing possibilities.

5. Apart from that he said that a fortnights overlap between May 1st and May 15th was much too short. He said it was "beyond human possibility" for the Commission in such a short space of time to do all that must be expected of them and he enquired whether it was possible to expect that His Majesty's Government would agree to a longer period. I said he must not expect it but that I would report what he had said to me.

6. I know full well the reasons which have led His Majesty's Government to refuse any long overlap but I must confess that I am and always have been apprehensive that it will be easy for the ill-disposed to attribute any failure to what they will represent as our unreasonable attitude in this matter.

7. He also asked whether there was any chance of His Majesty's Government deferring beyond May 15th the termination of the Mandate. I said I thought there was no chance of this. /8.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE									
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	1			2					
<p>Reference -</p> <p>FO 371 / 68530</p>									
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		1								2		COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITH- OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON									

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3145 Wt. 20469/137 100m 946 (51) F.S.

Registry
No. *E*

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

*UK Del.
New York*

Telegram.

No. *494*

(Date) *Feb 4*

Repeat to:-

*Washington
Jerusalem*

~~En Clair.~~

~~Code.~~

~~Cypher.~~

Distribution:-

Diplomatic

Copies to:-

Pal. circulation

F.O.,

Despatched

M.

*Most Immediate
Confidential*

Addressed to UK Delegation New York
telegram no. *494* of *4*, repeated
for information to Washington and
Jerusalem

Your telegram no. 191

Please let us have, by 11 A.M.

London time on the 5th February, ~~the~~
your present ~~best possible~~ estimate of the date at
which the Security Council will begin
to discuss Palestine, together with
any possible indications of the
course which the discussion is likely
to take.

H.B. 4/12

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Cypher/OTP
E.
Confidential

DIPLOMATIC

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 494 D. 7.35 p.m. 4th February, 1948.
4th February, 1948
Repeated to Washington No. 1435,
Jerusalem,

MOST IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to United Kingdom Delegation New
York telegram No. 494 of 4th February repeated
for information to Washington and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 191.

Please let us have, by 11 a.m. London time
on the 5th February, your present estimate of
the date at which the Security Council will
begin to discuss Palestine, together with any
possible indications of the course which the
discussion is likely to take.

uuuuu

52

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1	2	3	4	5	6

FO 371/68530

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No.

~~TOP SECRET~~
Secret.
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

H.B.

Draft.
U.K. Delegation,
New York.

Telegram.

No. 499.

(Date) Feb. 4.

Repeat to :
Washington, 1440
Jerusalem.

C.O. concurred.

K. Beal 4/12

M. Thorne 4/2

~~Ex. Sec.~~
~~Code~~
Cypher.

Distribution :—
Political.

[Signature]

Copies to :—

F. O.

February, 1948.

Despatched

M.

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Addressed to U.K. Delegation New York
telegram No. 499 of February 4, repeated for
information to Washington and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 191. I assume that
the Security Council will probably begin to
discuss Palestine soon after the 10th February.
In view of the volume of criticism to which we
shall presumably be exposed as a result of our
attitude both in the Security Council and in rel-
ation to the Palestine Commission, the Colonial
Secretary and I feel that his presence would
probably be desirable. ~~It has therefore been~~
arranged that he will fly to New York as soon
as you inform us that a full-dress discussion
of Palestine in the Security Council is imminent.

2. At what date do you now anticipate this
will happen? I shall be grateful for any
information you can give of the form in which
the matter will probably be presented to the
Council.

[Signature]

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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FO 371/68530

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54

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

No. 499

Repeated to Washington No. 1440
Jerusalem.

IMMEDIATE

Addressed to United Kingdom Delegation New York
telegram NO. 499 of February 4th, repeated for information
to Washington and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 191. I assume that the Security Council will probably begin to discuss Palestine soon after the 10th February. In view of the volume of criticism to which we shall presumably be exposed as a result of our attitude both in the Security Council and in relation to the Palestine Commission, the Colonial Secretary and I feel that his presence would probably be desirable.

2. At what date do you now anticipate this will happen? I shall be grateful for any information you can give of the form in which the matter will probably be presented to the Council.

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53

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SS

E 170

1948

PALESTINE

27 JAN 1948

Registry Number F1101/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. New York.

Dated 202

Received in Registry 26 Jan

27

U.N. Commission, Information
Re New York tel 180, which transmitted answers
to U.N. Commission questions
See transcript reply and further list of
questions.

ADDRESSED TERMINAL 31.

Last Paper.

1069

(Minutes.)

References.

H.B. 31/1

P.P. Pictorial 249 31/1

H.B. 7/2

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Whittaker 60
1 Lerman, Caboff
M-1.39

M104
Admiral
AM

Jan 27 on 11/4

(Action completed.)

J. E. 2/2

(Index.)

2/2

Next Paper.

1110

3047: F.O.P

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FO 371/68530					
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E 110 56
E

DEPARTMENTAL.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

R. 6.25 p.m. 26th January 1948

26th January 1948.

~~SECRET.~~

Following for Gurney from Fletcher-Cooke.

[Begins].

Your telegram No. 180 (repeated to Colonial Office as No. 165), - answers to Commission's questions.

1. Paragraph B. 7. It was emphasised to the Commission on 21st January that in the opinion of the Government of Palestine none (repeat none) of the Arabs who form 62 per cent of the staff of the Government in Palestine will be prepared to serve the Commission.

Paragraph B. 8. I am not (repeat not) in possession of the information requested by the Commission as to the numbers and ranks in each department of British, Arab and Jewish staff and should be grateful for this.

Paragraph B. 13. Does your reply mean that the idea of the Accountant-General and the Auditor going to Cyprus with the necessary Palestinian staff to work out computations of Palestinian officers' retiring benefits has been abandoned?

Paragraph B. 14. Commission appear to contemplate that appointments of Palestinian officers will not (repeat not) be formally terminated on termination of mandate but I will endeavour to clear this point up at next meeting.

2. Your paragraph 2. My telegram No. 26 refers.

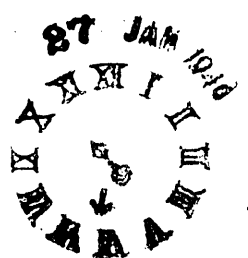
[Ends].

Please pass to Colonial Office for Martin and Immediate to Jerusalem.

[Copy sent to Telegraph Branch, Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem, and copies sent to Colonial Office for Martin].

V V V

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE						<i>Reference -</i>
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	1			2		
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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

E 1101 / 4 / 21

- 6 FEB 1948

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 31st January, 1948.

R. 31st " " 19.55 hrs.

No. 249 Secret

Addressed to UNDEL, No. 267.
Repeated to S. of S.
" " Washington, No. 52 (please pass to UNDEL).

Your telegram No. 31.

Answers to Commissioner's questions.

Your paragraph 3.

The proposal for a clearing office (probably in Cyprus, if suitable arrangements can be made) has not been abandoned, but we should not use for this purpose any staff which was required by U.N. Commission and willing to accept service with them. The extent to which such office would carry out any residuary function of the present administration, which would otherwise fall upon successor administration, will depend upon circumstances then existing, but its primary purpose will be

(a) To audit and balance accounts up to 15th Nov.

(b) To compute any pensions not already computed and

(c) To verify and certify any outstanding claims to or against the Government of Palestine.

Very truly,
Foreign Office

Mr. R. Hecley

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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FO 371 / 68530					
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E 1:10

58

1948

PALESTINE

27 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

1E1116/4/31

UNKNOWN

New York

8

8 Jan

27

Appointment of Mr. A. Gibson
Refer 7011 30(E378/4/31) Request copy of letter
to Gibson re appointment of Mr. Gibson to take
the place of Mr. D. Burns at meetings of Working
Committee on Reparation. He will be assisted
by Clifford Smith and Fletcher Becke.

Last Paper.

1110

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 60
Feb 2

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

1E1116/2/1

1E1116/2/1

Next Paper.

1153

29470 F.O.P.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371/68530

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No. 8 (19/6/48)

New York

HIS Majesty's Permanent Delegate to United Nations /
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S. of S. for F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

E British Delegation to the United Nations, New York

27 JAN 1948
Reference to previous correspondence:

8th January 1948

Your telegram No. 50 of 5th January
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.

Subject.

Copy of letter to
His Excellency,
M. Trygve Lie,
Secretary-General,
United Nations,
Lake Success, N.Y.

Appointment of Mr. L.B.
Gibson to take the place
of Sir Alan Burns at meet-
ings of the Working
Committee on Jerusalem of
the Trusteeship Council.

January 8, 1948.

(Copy also sent to Washington)

3479A [31211] (8)

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FO 371/68530

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January 8, 1948

I have the honour to inform you, on instructions from my Government, that Mr. L.B. Gibson, Attorney-General to the Government of Palestine, has been appointed to take the place of Sir Alan Burns at meetings of the Working Committee on Jerusalem of the Trusteeship Council, pending Sir Alan Burns' arrival for the forthcoming session of the Trusteeship Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

His Excellency,
Monsieur Trygve Lie,
Secretary General,
United Nations,
Lake Success, N.Y.

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	1			2	

FO 371/68530

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CABLE ADDRESS: UNATIONS NEW YORK

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: UNATIONS NEW-YORK

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK • FIELDSTONE 7-1100

REFERENCE:

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

..... The enclosed communication has been
transmitted to the address indicated.

2 February 1948

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Reference:-

FO 371/68530

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56

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63

876L

PALESTINE

E 1153

27 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

E1153/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

UKRIL

No.

New York.

Dated

209.

Received
in Registry

26 Jan

27 -

Security of Jerusalem

R/S 11.7.41 191 (E1153/4/31) In view of H/Sec. 6/185
has opened 11/11/41 letter to H/Sec. 6/185 re security of
Jerusalem and old walls.

R/S 11.7.41. Security is fully aware of the Security Situation
in Jerusalem and it was on the basis of the message about
a possible Security Force that H/Sec. 6/185 sent his
telegram to H/Sec. 6/185 for information re a/c

Last Paper.

1116

(Minutes.)

H/Sec. 2/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Mathiasan CO
1 Sherman Boboff
M.13a
M104
Admty
AM
Jan 26/48
E1153/4/31

(Action
completed.)

L. 11/6/48

(Index.)

L. 11/6/48

Next Paper.

1154

30471 F.O.P

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371/68530

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E 1750

DEPARTMENTAL

64

E 1750

D. 5.06 p.m. 26th January, 1948.

R.10.52 p.m. 26th January, 1948.

R.10.52 p.m. 26th January, 1948.

R.10.52 p.m. 26th January, 1948.

R.10.52 p.m. 26th January, 1948.

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R.10.52 p.m. 26th January, 1948.

R.10.52 p.m. 26th January, 1948.

R.10.52 p.m. 26th January, 1948.

A circular postmark from London, dated 27 JAN 1848. The text "LONDON" is at the top, "27 JAN 1848" is at the bottom, and "ENGLAND" is in the center. The numbers 1 through 12 are arranged around the perimeter, with the time "10 10" stamped in the center.

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FO 371 / 68530

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1948

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E 1754

27 JAN '63

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

*Received
in Registry*

Last Paper.

1153

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8
1
Wathen in. P.D
Sherman Bob off
M13a
M84
admiral
AM

Jan 27

24, New York. 442
Rtd. N York 1294

(Action completed.)

(Index

Next Paper.

1160

(Minutes.)

Feb. 15 New York.

1473. 31/11

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371 / 68530

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Cypher/OTP

27 JAN 1948

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE
(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 214

D. 6.49 p.m. 26th January, 1948.

26th January, 1948. R. 12.14 a.m. 27th January, 1948.

Repeated to Washington Saving.

IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 214 of January
26th repeated to Washington Saving.

Your telegram No. 349: Palestine.

We have been acting in accordance with your
paragraph 2 and will continue to do so.

2. Your paragraph 3 noted. I should, however be
grateful for guidance regarding use of prefix "Brief";
e.g. should it be used for telegrams on Palestine
addressed or repeated to Colonial Office and concerning
administrative or factual details of no political
significance?

0 0 0 0

27 JAN 1948

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1	2	3	4	5	6

FO 371/68530

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No. E 1154 / 4131

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential
~~Restricted.~~
Open:

Draft.

UK Del. New
York

Telegram.

No. 442

(Date) 31st Jan.

Repeat to :—

Washington
1294.

En Clair.
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution :-

July 12

Copies to :—

Mr. Matheson, C.O.

F.O.

194

Despatched

M

Important
Confidential

Addressed to V.R. Del. New York,
telegram no 442 of 31st Jan
repeated to Washington.

Your telegram no. 214

The prefix "Brief" should be used only for telegrams on purely colonial office matters in which the Foreign Office have no interest.

H-3. 31/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

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Cypher /OTP
E 1154/4/31
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DEPARTMENTAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 442
31st January, 1948

D. 9.55 p.m. 31st January, 1948

Repeated to Washington No. 1294

IMPORTANT

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to United Kingdom Delegation New York
telegram No. 442 of 31st January, repeated to Washington.

Your telegram No. 214.

The prefix "Brief" should be used only for telegrams on purely Colonial Office matters in which the Foreign Office has no interest.

PPP

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27 JAN 1948

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E

71

E 1161

PALESTINE

27 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received

in Registry

E 1161/4/31

U.K. Tel

New York

215

26 Jan

27 -

Draft Statute for Enactment

After 40th 3.70 (E 1161/4/31) Working Committee
completed their third and final reading of draft Statute
28 Jan. They are meeting again for one day to consider
report which is to accompany the approved draft Statute
when it is sent to Trusteeship Council. The report explains
suggestion that Trusteeship Council will not be consider
question of drafting Statute in the future. Report
circulate U.K. draft to members of U.K. before their meeting.
no further instructions received.

Last Paper.

1160

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. Whitham. 60
Alderman 60 off
M13a

M104

Admky

G. W.

Jan 28 on E 1091

Ref. New York. 403

Jan 29

3. as above. Feb. 7

(Action
completed)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

1166

(Minutes.)

Tel. to New York.

H.B. 307

U.N. Political Dept.

The Colonial Office are expecting a copy
of the draft Statute at any moment, with
Laurance a request for comments before it
comes up at the Trusteeship Council

D. Hindman
3-2.

H.B. 51

J. P. New York Tel 4.00. BRIEF 13 21/1

H.B. 92

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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Cypher/OTP.

TRUSTEESHIP DISTRIBUTION.

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations).

No. 215. D. 8.10 p.m. 26th January 1948.

26th January 1948. R. 5.10 a.m. 27th January 1948.

Repeated to: Jerusalem and
Saving to Washington.

IMPORTANT.

BUILD.

CONFIDENTIAL.

E 116

27 JAN 1948

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 215
of 26th January repeated to Jerusalem and Saving to
Washington.

Following for Galsworthy from Fletcher Cooke.

[Begins].

Your telegram No. 350.

Draft statute for Jerusalem.

Working Committee completed their third and
final reading of the draft statute on 25th January
and Sabben-Clare has returned to Washington.

2. Committee are meeting again for one day on
12th February to consider the report which is to
accompany the approved draft statute when it is
sent to the Trusteeship Council. This report contains
suggestion that Trusteeship Council will wish to
consider question of drafting instructions to the
Governor.

3. Anker, Secretary of the Working Committee,
informs me that Committee took the view that
instructions should not (repeat not) form part of the
statute and he does not (repeat not) think it would
be possible to re-open this matter in the Working
Committee at this stage. He has suggested that when
the question comes up for consideration in the
Trusteeship Council Burns will no doubt have an
opportunity of calling the Council's attention to the
draft instructions which have been prepared.

4. We would propose, unless you see any
objection to such initiative on our part, to circulate
United Kingdom draft to members of the Trusteeship
Council a few days before they meet. In this case
it might be well if Burns were able to arrive in

New York



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<p><i>Reference:-</i></p> <p>FO 371/68530</p>					
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TRUSTEESHIP

No. 403
29th January, 1948.

D. 9.40 pm. 29th January,
1948.

Your telegram No. 215.

Following for Fletcher-Cooke from
Galsworthy.

Hope to discuss with Burns to-morrow, 30th January. Please take no action meanwhile.

০০০

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE						<i>Reference:-</i> FO 371/68530
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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

En Clair

FROM NEW YORK (Mr. Cadogan)

D. 31st January, 1948.
R. 31st " " 23.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE
BRIEF No. 13.

Addressed S. of S. telegram No. 13 BRIEF
of 31st January.
Repeated to Palestine.

Following for Galsworthy from Fletcher-
Cooke. Begins.

Working Committee on Draft Statute for
Jerusalem will now reconvene on Monday 16th February
at 11 a.m. The President of the Trusteeship Council
has convened the second part of the second session of
the Trusteeship Council for Wednesday 18th February.

2. I presume that Burns will have reached
New York in time to attend the Working Committee
meeting on 16th February. Ends.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. Beeley
" " - Mr. Beith
" " - Mr. P. Mason

Sir Alan Burns, G.C.M.G.,
27 Wildcroft Manor,
Putney Heath, S.W. 15.

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1948

PALESTINE

E 1:66

28 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

E1166/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

BME 0

No.

Cairo

Dated

28

Received

in Registry 26 JAN

28 -

Prohibition of Simulation, Lebanese Force
After full 38 to Beirut (E907/4/31) there might
undoubtedly be a lot of difficulty with
receipt of what was the Lebanese Government
and it is not clear if it was UN sanctioned, it would
be a violation of UN principles of non-interference
in the internal affairs of other states, and it would not
agree to any other authority.

Last Paper.

1161 (1060)

(Minutes.)

See E 1055

References.

H.B. 27/2

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. Walker, B.O.
 Herman Bab off
 M13a
 M104
 Admty
 AM
 Jan 29/4

(Action
completed.)

J. L. 27/4

(Index)

J. L. 27/4

Next Paper.

(1234)

1180

30471 F.O.P.

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POLLICE.

E 1760

D. 8.54 a.m. 20th JAN 1948

R. 12.15 a.m. 27th January, 1948.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 28, of January
20th, repeated to Washington, Cairo, Bagdad, Damascus, Jeddah,
Amman and Jerusalem.

10-6

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28 JAN 1948

[Repeated to Washington].

0:0

1948	<div>E EN</div> <div>TREATY AND NATIONALITY DEPT</div>	(Security Grading—to be Up-graded where Appropriate) 79	
	PALESTINE	<div>E EN</div> E1180	
FROM E1180/4/31	SUBJECT: MEMORANDA ON PALESTINE		
No.	Encloses Copy of:	References and Relevant Papers:	
Dated			
Received			
(Outward Action)	MINUTES — SEE WITHIN		
(Printing Instructions)			
(Referred to Legal Adviser)			
(Action completed)			(Main Indexed)

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29 JAN 1948

**Registry
Number**

FROM

No.

Dated

*Received
in Registry*

Last Paper.

1166

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(How disposed of.)
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Ratel W. Ton 1878

Baird	16
Sagdad	5
Beirut	10
Teddah	10
Damascus	9
Ammann	8
R.M.E.O.	46

} Saving
14, Feb

Blackman EO
Horgan Baboff
Scherr NIS

NISA
NIOA
Gandy
Lent

one (2207)
Feb 17 P.I.

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

1184

(Minutes.)

It is agreed (see E 982 attached) that these documents should go to the Arab Government, and to India and Pakistan. Before taking this action, ^{however} I think we should make sure that their substance is likely to be suitable for this purpose. Of nos. 1, 2 and 3 within, no. 1 is already public property and no. 2 would probably please the Arabs. No. 3, which I suppose ~~was~~ originated in Jerusalem and which shows a disposition to cooperate fairly extensively with the U.N. Commission, might on the other hand give offence.

On balance I think it would be better to maintain our decision and let the Arabs see them all.

1 agree. 1 suppose ^{H. Beeley} 31/

we

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Mr Pyman should see the passage
on the IPC concession in Transjordan
on p. 7 of P.M.D.3. I think we
are trying to get this situation
reversed.

2.2

It would be quicker, and would put the Arab States on an equal footing with the Dominions for this purpose, if the Documents were given to their Delegations in New York. I believe that Egypt, Syria and Iraq at least are represented there. I submit a draft.

H.B. only 8/2

9.2

Revised draft attached

H. Beeley 14/2

11/10/20

6 Aug. P/NY; 4
to Mr. Banters
2104.
W.O.

1/10/19

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

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9. P.P.	P(NY)	4
"	"	5
"	"	6
"	"	7
"	"	8
"	"	9
"	"	11
"	"	12
"	"	13
"	"	14
"	"	15
"	"	16
"	"	17

9. P.P.	P(NY)	18
"	"	19
"	"	20
"	"	20 ANNEXE 1.
"	"	21
"	"	22
"	"	23
"	"	24

H.B. 24/12

H.B. 25/12

Now see (for
letter numbers) E2733

H.B.

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Registry
No. *E 1180/4/31*

~~Top Secret~~
~~Secret~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted~~
~~Open~~

Draft.

UK Del. New York

Telegram.

No.

(Date).

Repeat to:—

*Washington
Jerusalem*

En Clair.
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution:—

Diplomatic

Copies to:—

Pal. circulation

F.O.,

194 .

Despatched

M.

Immediate

Confidential

*Addressed to UK Delegation, New
York, telegram no. 7, repeated
for information to Washington and Jerusalem*

*Your telegram no. 166, paragraph
3 [of 22nd January, documents given to
U.N. Palestine Commission], and my
telegram no. 359 paragraph 4.*

*We think there would be
advantage in giving to the Delegations
of such Arab States as are permanently
represented to the United Nations copies
of the documents which you are at
present communicating to the Delegations
of the United States and the English-
speaking Dominions.*

*2. This would entail giving them
also*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

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also to Pakistan and India.

3. Unless you see strong objection,
please therefore take this action,
both retrospectively and for all future
documents ^{to} which you give any
circulation beyond the Commission
itself.

4. ~~How many~~ ^{Which} of the Arab States
are represented in New York?

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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PALESTINE DISTRIBUTION.

Sir Alexander Cadogan
 Mr. V.G. Lawford
 Mr. H.M. Phillips
 Mr. Trafford Smith
 Mr. J. Fletcher-Cocke
 Mr. P.S. Falla
 Captain R.D. Coleridge (4)
 Mr. M.E. Bathurst
 Mr. A.R.K. Mackenzie
 Mr. R.T.G. Miles
 Washington (Mr. D. Allen) (2)
 United Nations Dept., Foreign Office (2)
 Eastern Dept., Foreign Office (2)
 Colonial Office (2)
 Jerusalem (2)
 Registry
 Mr. R.H. Hadow
 Spares (3)

United States Delegation }
 Canadian Delegation } through Mr. Falla

E 1180

28 JAN 1948

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PALESTINE COMMISSION.

84

Replies to Questions on Immigration to
be given 21st January, 1948.

QuestionsAnswers.

1. What are the plans of the Mandatory Power regarding immigration prior to the termination of the Mandate and particularly with respect to the present quota of 1500 Jewish immigrants per month?

It is my Government's intention to maintain its present policy in regard to Jewish immigration into Palestine, under which 1500 Jews are admitted monthly, until the termination of the Mandatory Administration.

2. What are the plans of the Mandatory Power with regard to the recommendation in paragraph A.2 of Part I of the Assembly's resolution which reads as follows:

"The Mandatory Power shall use its best endeavours to ensure that an area situated in the territory of the Jewish State, including a seaport and hinterland adequate to provide facilities for a substantial immigration, shall be evacuated at the earliest possible date and in any event not later than 1 February 1948".

His Majesty's Government in the U.K. have repeatedly made it clear that, so long as the Mandatory regime is maintained, they must retain undivided control over the whole of Palestine. For this reason, it is not possible for my Government to comply with the recommendation concerning the evacuation of a Jewish port and hinterland, so long as the Mandate continues.

3. Would ships carrying unauthorised Jewish immigrants be prevented from going to Tel Aviv and landing there in the period between 1 February 1948 and the termination of the Mandate?

Yes, in accordance with my Government's decision that the existing immigration policy is to be maintained until the termination of the Mandate.

4./

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Questions.

4. Does the Mandatory Power intend to transfer all Jewish immigrants presently detained in Cyprus to Palestine? If so, when and under what conditions? (Within the existing quota or otherwise? If within the quota, in what proportion?)

Answers.

85

His Majesty's Government have already announced that they cannot permit Jewish illegal immigrants to remain on British territory after the withdrawal of their forces from Palestine. The arrangements for the removal of the illegal immigrants held in Cyprus are among the responsibilities which have hitherto fallen on the Government of Palestine and form one of the subjects on which my delegation is instructed to negotiate with the Commission. My Government will be willing to release from detention the ships "Pan York" and "Pan Crescent" for the purpose of the removal of these immigrants, concerning which the Commission may wish to negotiate with the Jewish Agency - that is to say, in regard to the use of the ships.

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NOTE ON THE SECURITY POSITION IN PALESTINE SINCE
THE UNITED NATIONS DECISION.

CASUALTIES

The following figures relate to the period from November 30th, 1947,
to January 18th, 1948, inclusive:

(1) British

(a) <u>Police</u>	Killed	14
	Wounded	40
(b) <u>Soldiers</u>	Killed	20
	Wounded	72
(c) <u>Civilians</u>	Killed	5
	Wounded	2
<u>Total British Casualties</u>		<u>153</u>

(2) Arabs.

(a) <u>Police</u>	Killed	3
	Wounded	21
(b) <u>Soldiers</u>	Killed	3
	Wounded	4
(c) <u>Civilians</u>	Killed	339
	Wounded	852
<u>Total Arab Casualties</u>		<u>1222</u>

(3) Jews.

(a) <u>Police</u>	Killed	16
	Wounded	40
(b) <u>Soldiers</u>	Nil	--
(c) <u>Civilians</u>	Killed	317
	Wounded	593
<u>Total Jewish Casualties</u>		<u>966</u>

/(4) Others.....

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(4) Others

<u>Civilians</u>	Killed	15
	Wounded	12
		<hr/>
<u>Total</u>		<u>27</u>

2. There have been no casualties among British Government officers but separate records have not been kept in respect of Arab and Jewish subordinate government employees.

3. Jewish attempts have been made to fix the blame for the present disturbances on the Palestine Administration. As a corrective to these attempts members of the Commission may wish to have the following statement of the Government of Palestine's policy.

4. The Government of Palestine is anxious to allow both communities to defend themselves. As regards Jewish areas, arrangements have been made for the withdrawal of British and Arab police from the Tel Aviv-Petah-Tikvah area and for the formation there of an armed Jewish "Mishmar" of Civil Guard. In Jerusalem, Haifa and elsewhere, the Jewish Agency on the suggestion of the Government of Palestine has appointed liaison officers between the Hagana and the Palestine Police. Orders were also given during the first week of January that there was to be no search for arms for a month except where there was conclusive evidence that arms had been misused or were likely to be misused, e.g. in attack. It has been made clear to the Jewish Agency that the Government of Palestine will do nothing to obstruct the Hagana so long as the latter act in a purely defensive role but the Government of Palestine is faced with the practical difficulty that in spite of these representations the Hagana continues to carry out outrageous attacks on Arab villages and buildings. The latest instance of this was the blowing-up of the Semiramis Hotel by the Hagana. The Hagana are in no sense a disciplined force and incidents are continually occurring in which their members provoke attack.

5. The National Military Organisation and Stern groups are either completely out of control or (as the Arabs believe) are secretly countenanced. In recent exploits by these groups in Haifa and Jaffa they have killed 30 Arabs and wounded some 120 and they continue vigorously to

/attack.....

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attack the police and army. The Jewish community appears to be still unwilling to heed the warnings so often given by the Administration over the past two years that unless these terrorists are traced and handed over to the police they will not only make any chance of peace impossible but will also end by destroying the Jewish community itself. But for these outrages, which the Arabs are as incapable of preventing as the Government of Palestine has been in the past, it might be possible to restore the situation to one in which each side would be content with defence for the time being.

6. On the Arab side it is similarly the policy of the Government of Palestine to assist in the establishment of civil guard forces in the form of municipal and local police in towns and villages. The Jaffa municipal force is now being increased to 300 and it is hoped to recognise similar bodies in the Arab areas of Jerusalem and Haifa where there are responsible Arab elements anxious to give their services purely for the protection of life and property. It is virtually certain that some at least of the provocation shown on the Arab side is offered by lawless and irresponsible elements from outside Palestine who are not amenable to influence or discipline exercised by Palestinian Arabs.

7. In present circumstances the Jewish story that the Arabs are the attackers and the Jews the attacked is not tenable. The Arabs are determined to show that they will not submit tamely to the United Nations Plan of Partition; while the Jews are trying to consolidate the advantages gained at the General Assembly by a succession of drastic operations designed to intimidate and cure the Arabs of any desire for further conflict. Elements on each side are thus engaged in attacking or in taking reprisals indistinguishable from attacks but the Jews are evidently determined to cover their aggression by criticisms of the Government for failing to allow them to maintain order or conditions in which implementation of the United Nations Plan is possible. A recent instance of their own lack of discipline occurred in the Imbhar area of Tel Aviv, from which British forces had been withdrawn, when the Jewish Deputy Superintendent of Police was promptly shot by a Jewish constable. The fact is that but for the efforts of the security forces over the past month, the two communities would by now have

/been fully.....

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been fully engaged in internecine slaughter. The Government of Palestine fear that strife in Palestine will be greatly intensified when the Mandate is terminated and that the international status of the United Nations Commission will mean little or nothing to the Arabs in Palestine, to whom the killing of Jews now transcends all other considerations. Thus, the Commission will be faced with the problem of how to avert certain bloodshed on a very much wider scale than prevails at present.

8. Publicity has been given to the situation prevailing in the Old City of Jerusalem and His Majesty's Government and the Government of Palestine have been accused, inter alia, of allowing the Arabs to blockade the Old City of Jerusalem and to isolate some 1,800 Jewish inhabitants and to starve them out. The Commission will no doubt welcome the following account of how the situation in the Old City of Jerusalem has developed and how it has been dealt with.

/ 9. On 13th.....

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9. On 13th December, bombs were thrown into Arab crowds immediately outside the Damascus Gate of the Old City by Jews passing in motor cars. In the explosions which followed, 7 Arabs were killed and 54 injured. These casualties included women and children. As a result of this outrage, credit for which was later claimed by the Irgun Zwei Leumi, the Arabs set up road blocks outside the Old City to check the identity of passers-by. These road blocks were cleared away by security forces. On 29th December, the Irgun Zwei Leumi carried out an exactly similar indiscriminate bomb attack on the Damascus Gate, killing 11 and wounding 32 Arabs, many of whom were women and children. Two British policemen were also killed in or as a result of this outrage. The Arabs immediately re-established their road blocks at all entrances to the Old City. These blocks were recognised by the Government as a reasonable measure of self-defence on the part of the Arabs having regard to the indiscriminate outrages carried by the Irgun Zwei Leumi, but arrangements were made for British police to be attached to them in a supervisory capacity. Ordinary traffic of the Jews in and out of the Old City was, however, brought to an end and this led to an immediate reaction on the part of the Jews, who asserted that 1800 members of their community inside the Old City were besieged, starved and about to be massacred. Throughout the whole period, however, there has been adequate military force within the Old City to protect the Jews and although sniping has taken place on both sides, there has been no question of a general attack by the Arabs. Food has been taken in to the Jews whenever required by strong military convoys and allegations that they have been starving are baseless. Arrangements have now been made for bona fide Jewish residents or close relatives of residents, who were caught outside the Old City when Arab defence measures were taken, to be admitted under army protection contrary to the allegation that the British are standing idly by; it can be said that but for the intervention of the security authorities, Jews in the Old City would probably have suffered/

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suffered severely in life and property. In fact their total casualties have been 2 killed and 3 injured. Far from attempting to help in restoring the situation to normal, the Jewish authorities have resolutely refused to consider requests to withdraw the Hagana and even to remove dissident terrorists, whose aggressive activities have succeeded in preserving an atmosphere of tension and have been largely responsible for whatever sniping has taken place; Jews perpetrated a further bomb massacre at the Jaffa Gate on 7th January when 17 were killed and 36 injured; they have attempted to smuggle unauthorised persons in with the army convoys, and they have, of course, continued their campaign of vilification and abuse against the Government of Palestine.

10. Negotiations have been in progress with the object of inducing Heads of the religious communities concerned to issue an appeal to their respective followers for peace in the Old City. The general situation is now easier and there is reason to hope that such an appeal, if it is made, will have a moderating effect, provided there is no further provocation by either side.

11. It is considered desirable to emphasise the following points.

(a) The role of the Security Force in Palestine is to protect life and property without discrimination so long as the Mandate lasts and in particular British security forces have protected Jews against Arab attacks in the Hulch. at Kfaretzion, Shefazar and Beit Safafa.

(b) Jewish dissidents are still attacking British army and police personnel.

(c) As regards the Hagana, the provocative, ruthless and aggressive character of its reprisals policy must be stressed and for this reason alone (apart from others) it could not be recognised by the Government of Palestine as a legal defence force. Moreover, it is difficult to see how this body could ever become a national militia for the Jewish State unless that State contemplates racial discrimination so as to exclude its four hundred thousand Arabs from participation in the security forces of the State.

(d)/

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(d) The Arab Higher Committee in Palestine has been endeavouring to curb Arab violence and is co-operating with the Government of Palestine to this end. It is, however, reported that Palestinian Arabs are now returning after completion of their training in Syria, and the police who engaged a large party of Arabs attacking Jews in Shafr Amr report that its discipline and tactics were far in advance of anything yet encountered.

(e) In the Tel Aviv-Petah Tikvah area from which, as stated above, British and Arab police have already been withdrawn, the Mishmar force which the Jewish Agency undertook to establish early in December is still not in being; the Arab municipal police force in Jaffa is working well.

12. The following is a list of the more important incidents reported during the past few days:

(i) 15th January

The situation was quieter in the Hebron area. There were many incidents in Haifa, including attacks on both Arab and Jewish buses. Nothing further was reported from the Syrian frontier area. In Nablus, armed Arabs entered the Ottoman Bank and stole £P140. A Jewish convoy was attacked by Arabs near Beersheba and the engagement was terminated by military and police intervention.

Casualties in these incidents were as follows:-

British 3 soldiers killed, one soldier and one civilian wounded.

Arabs 10 killed, 34 wounded.

Jews 6 killed, 22 wounded

Others 1 killed, 1 wounded.

(ii) 16th January.

(a) At 0800 hours, Arab villagers of Surif saw a party of about 100 Jews marching across village lands. The Arabs alleged that the Jews opened fire and that the Arabs then replied. 6 Arabs were wounded. Police and military visited the village at 1300 hours and found no action in progress. In the evening, rumours were/

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were circulated in Hebron that 47 Jews had been killed near Surif.

On 17th January, police and military visited the area and found the bodies of 35 Jews between Surif and Beit Natif; clothing had been removed from the bodies; there were signs of shrapnel, bullet and dagger wounds. Unconfirmed reports state that 7 Arabs were killed and 8 wounded.

(b) An Arab house was blown up in Haifa resulting in the death of 2 adults and 7 children and the wounding of 3 adults and 3 children.

(c) In other incidents, the following casualties occurred:

British 6 wounded
Arabs 3 killed, 13 wounded
Jews 1 killed, 7 wounded.

(iii) 17th and 18th January.

(a) During the afternoon of 17th January, trucks carrying a Hagana party searching for the Jews killed near Surif (referred to above) were ambushed at Ein Shoush on the Beit Jibrin-Artuf track by a party of Arabs. During the engagement the following casualties were sustained:

Jews 1 killed, 2 wounded
Arabs 3 killed, 2 wounded.

(b) During the morning of 18th January, a Jewish convoy was ambushed on the Jerusalem-Jaffa road and the following casualties occurred:

Jews 1 killed, 9 wounded.

According to an unconfirmed report, one other Jew was killed.

(c) In other incidents, the following casualties were reported:

British 2 killed, 3 wounded
Arabs 12 killed, 21 wounded
Jews 5 killed, 17 wounded.

(iv) 19th January.

(a) During the afternoon of 18th January, unknown persons in
 unknown/

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unknown circumstances stole 38 rifles, one sub-machine gun with 14 magazines and 5 pistols from the Armoury, Police Force Training Centre, Jerusalem.

(b) At noon on 19th January, a bomb was thrown and Bren gun fire directed at Arabs from a Jewish truck passing through Sarafand El Amr village. Three Arabs were killed and shortly afterwards a truck believed to be the one used in this attack was found near Sarafand Camp. The vehicle had been burnt out and bore bullet holes. No trace of the occupants was found.

(c) During the night of 18-19th January, shots were fired at the Jewish colony of Shear Yashuf near the Syrian frontier. In the morning the body of an Arab believed killed by rifle fire was found on colony lands.

(d) In the early hours of the 19th January, the Arab village of Tamra near Acre was attacked by approximately 200 Jews with grenades and rifle fire. The following casualties were inflicted on the Arab villagers:

2 killed, 2 seriously wounded, 4 slightly wounded.

(e) Arab-owned houses were blown up at Romema, Ramle and Beit Dajan. The Hagana have admitted that this was a reprisal raid in which one Jew was killed and two seriously injured.

(f) In other incidents, casualties were:

British (Mauritian) soldiers. 2 killed, 5 wounded.

Arabs 2 killed, 2 wounded.

Jews 1 killed, 5 wounded.

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1. The following is a list of matters which it will be necessary to discuss with the Commission at some stage. It is not yet possible to furnish the Commission with His Majesty's Government's views on all these points, but some preliminary observations on certain of these points will be found below.

- (1) Municipalities and Local Councils
- (2) Central Services
- (3) Convicted Prisoners and Detainees
- (4) Medical Services
- (5) Enemy Property
- (6) Concessions X
- (7) Requisitioned Property.
- (8) Financial Matters.

It must be understood that the above list gives only a brief indication of some of the problems with which the Commission will be faced on taking over responsibility for the administration of Palestine. As will be observed no specific reference is made to those points already covered in the second list of questions received from the Commission - in particular accommodation and transport arrangements for the Commission, the custody of stores and records, food supplies, etc.

2. The following preliminary observations on certain points are submitted for the information of the Commission

(1) Municipalities and Local Councils: The Government of Palestine has for some time had it in mind to relax to a certain degree the control of the Central Government over the activities of Municipalities and Local Councils. A new post of Secretary for Local Government was created in 1947 and the Officer appointed to this post would, but for impending constitutional changes, have been entrusted with the task of elaborating a new policy covering the relationship between the Central Government and Local authorities.

In view of recent developments it has not been found possible to pursue this policy as was originally intended, but in view of the difficulties which will face the /Commission

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Commission on assuming responsibility for the Administration of Palestine, the Government of Palestine is of the opinion that steps should be taken to entrust as many functions as possible to Local authorities during the transition period. To this end legislation is at present in the course of preparation in Palestine which it is hoped to pass before the termination of the mandate which will have two effects:

- (a) on the one hand, and as a permanent measure, it will relax generally, much of the Central Government's control over the activities of Local Authorities and
- (b) on the other hand as a temporary measure and until the Commission decides otherwise, it will suspend the obligation of Local Authorities to refer to the Central Government certain matters which would normally require such a reference.

In brief the intention is to relax all control of the Central Government except as regards Local authorities' borrowing powers and their powers to make bye-laws. But as is explained above, although the Central Government control in these two respects will remain in theory, it will be suspended during the transitional period until and unless the Commission by legislative means make it incumbent upon the local authorities once again to submit their bye-laws and their proposals for borrowing money to the Central Government.

It is also proposed that with effect from 1st April, 1948, the collection and disbursement of the Urban Property Tax should be handed over to the local authorities. The proceeds of this tax, which is at present collected centrally, amount to some 700,000 pounds a year and will thus be available to the local authorities as additional funds to enable them to carry out their increased responsibilities.

In this connection, it should be pointed out that the Central Government also makes grants to local authorities for various purposes which amount to some £400,000 per year and it will be for the Commission to decide, in view of the increased responsibilities entrusted to local authorities, whether they propose to continue to make this money available to local authorities in addition to the £700,000 to which reference is made above.

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(2) Central Services.

There are certain Central Services for which local authorities cannot be made responsible. The most important of these are:

- (a) Railways and Ports
- (b) Civil aviation
- (c) Posts and Telegraphs
- (d) Customs and Excise.

The Commission will no doubt wish to consider what steps they should take to ensure the functioning of these Central Services.

As regards the Railways, the present intention is that after the termination of the Mandate, those portions of the Railways which lie in the area still occupied by the withdrawing British Military forces will be operated by the General Manager under the directions of the General Officer Commanding. Broadly speaking, this will cover railways within what is known as the "Haifa enclave". Owing to the fact that the administration and work shops of the railways are situated at Haifa, it will obviously be difficult for those portions of the railways which lie outside the Haifa enclave to be operated by the Commission, until the military have finally withdrawn on the 31st July 1948, when the whole of the railways will come fully under the control of the Commission.

As regards the Ports, the same considerations apply in the case of Haifa Port through which the Army will be evacuated, but the Commission will no doubt wish to make arrangements to take over the administration of the ports at Jaffa and Tel Aviv.

As regards Posts and Telegraphs, these will presumably continue to be operated inside the Haifa enclave under the general directions of the General Officer Commanding and it will be for the Commission to consider what arrangements are possible as regards the operation of Postal and Telegraph Services outside the Haifa enclave during the interval between the termination of the Mandate and the 31st July, 1948.

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As regards Civil Aviation, it is understood that Lydda Airport is in the area allotted to the Jewish State and is outside the Haifa enclave, but the Commission will presumably have to consider what arrangements can be made for its continued operation after the date of the termination of the Mandate.

As regards Customs and Excise, this will provide a particularly difficult problem. In the first place, some 50% of the revenue of Palestine is derived from Customs duties and the average amount so collected is about one million pounds per month. Almost all of this is collected at Haifa Port, which will, of course, be under military control until 31st July. It will, therefore, be necessary to give consideration to the question as to how Customs duties are going to be collected at Haifa during the period between the termination of the Mandate and the 31st July, 1948.

No reply has as yet been received to question 15 of the questions listed under the heading "Commission's Discharge of its Administration Responsibilities". Presumably the Commission's enquiry relates to the secondment of British personnel. As far as His Majesty's Government is concerned, Palestine personnel will of course be available for employment in the Commission but it should be pointed out that some 62% of the staff of the Government of Palestine are Arabs, and there is strong reason to believe that none of these will be prepared to serve the Commission in any capacity.

Consideration will also have to be given to the question of the terms to be offered by the Commission for continued employment of such Palestinian Officers as may be prepared to serve the Commission. This, of course, is bound up with the question of compensation terms to be given to Palestinian Officers at present serving the Government of Palestine.

(3) Prisoners and Detainees.

Arrangements have been made to re-distribute the prison population of Palestine so that by the time that the Mandate is terminated, Arab and Jewish prisoners will be confined in prison establishments situated in areas populated by their own race.

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The following represents the intended disposition and approximate numbers of prisoners at the date of the termination of the Mandate:-

(a) Jewish Prisoners.

- (i) 175 convict prisoners
- (ii) 57 criminal lunatics
- (iii) 425 detainees

All these totaling 657 will be confined at Athlit on the date of the termination of the Mandate.

(b) Arab Prisoners.

- (i) 400 convicted prisoners and 73 criminal lunatics at Acre
- (ii) 180 convicted prisoners at Nablus
- (iii) 400 convicted prisoners at Latrun
- (iv) 10 convicted feral prisoners at Jaffa

Total number of Arab prisoners 1063.

The Commission will no doubt wish to make arrangements for the custody of these prisoners. The question of the continued confinement of 425 Jewish detainees will present a number of difficulties. Among these terrorists are a number of revisionists who are unlikely to accept the partition scheme. Their release might well prove an embarrassment to the Commission and in any case they will certainly prove embarrassing to the General Officer Commanding if they are released before 31st July, 1948.

Consideration is also being given to stocking prison establishments with one months' supply of food and paying existing Palestinian warden staff at least three months' salary in advance. As no guarantees can be given that these arrangements will be effective after the termination of the Mandate, the Commission will no doubt appreciate the serious possibility of prisoners and criminal lunatics being released if no adequate arrangements are made for the continuity of prison administration after that date.

In addition to these prisoners in Palestine, there are a further 350 Jewish detainees held in Kenya. In due course these detainees will have to be repatriated from Kenya to Palestine but the same considerations apply as in the case of the Jewish detainees at present held in Palestine.

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(4) Medical Services.

As the Commission is no doubt aware, the Jews have their own medical organisation in Palestine and generally speaking the needs of the Arabs are met in Government-run hospitals. Owing to the large number of casualties caused among the Arabs in recent outrages, Government hospitals are now full of Arab patients. At the same time, for political reasons, and as a result of a number of unfortunate incidents, the Jewish staff in the Government hospitals are no longer prepared to look after these Arab patients. In these circumstances, the Government has found it necessary to close down a number of outlying hospitals in Arab areas and to transfer the Arab staff to hospitals in towns and cities to look after the Arab victims of the outrages referred to above. Thus, the resources of the Government Medical Department are fully strained at the present time and are likely to become more so as casualties increase. Arrangements have, therefore, been made for the International Red Cross to afford such assistance as may be possible. As the International Red Cross have no funds at their disposal for this purpose, the Government of Palestine, with the approval of His Majesty's Government, is proposing to make available to the International Red Cross a contribution from Palestine Government Funds. As the money now made available may not be sufficient to cover the expenditure which may have to be incurred after the date of the termination of the Mandate, it is felt that the Commission should be apprised of the position, and it is presumed that they will agree to continue to make available after the date of the termination of the Mandate such sums of money as may be required by the International Red Cross.

Two International Red Cross Directors, Dr. R. Marti and Dr. Jacques de Reynier, hope to arrive in Palestine before the end of January.

(5) Enemy Property.

His Majesty's Government are at present responsible under the provisions of Article 6 of Part I of the Final Act of the Paris Conference on Reparations, for the administration of certain German external assets in Palestine. The final sums likely to be accountable for reparations in respect

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of German enemy assets in Palestine is about four million pounds. His Majesty's Government are at present giving consideration to the best means of dealing with this problem and it is hoped that further information on this point will be available for the Commission in due course.

(6) Concessions

The General Assembly's Plan of Partition states in Part I, Section C, Chapter 3, Clause 3(d) "Commercial concessions granted in respect of any part of Palestine prior to the adoption of the resolution by the General Assembly shall continue to be valid according to their terms, unless modified by agreement between the concession holder and the State".

It is desirable to bring to the notice of the Commission two specific points relating to concessions.

(a) Proposed amendment to the Iraq Petroleum Company's Pipeline Concession.

At present there is a concession in existence whereby the I.P.C. have laid a pipeline from Iraq to Haifa to transport oil derived from a certain oilfield in Iraq. Recently the I.P.C. entered into an agreement with the Government of Trans-Jordan whereby they acquired rights to prospect for oil in that country. Some months ago, the I.P.C. approached the Government of Palestine and asked for an amendment to their existing concession whereby they should be permitted to bring through the pipeline already referred to (or possibly by laying another pipe contiguous to the existing pipe), not only oil that might be found in Trans-Jordan but also oil from two further oil-fields in Iraq. Negotiations with the Company had reached an advanced stage but in view of the fact that constitutional changes were pending, it was decided not to proceed with these negotiations at the present

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At the same time as these modifications in the I.P.C.'s concession were proposed, negotiations were opened between the I.P.C. and the Haifa Municipality under which the I.P.C. were prepared to agree to make a payment to the Municipality in lieu of rates (from which they are exempt in accordance with the provisions of the concession). Negotiations between the I.P.C. and the Municipality are almost completed but when agreement has been reached, it will be necessary to modify the original concession accordingly. This modification will, of course, be to the advantage of the Haifa Municipality but it is felt that the Commission should be informed of this.

(b) Jerusalem Press
For some time before the question of Palestine

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(7) Requisitioned Property.

During the past few years the Government of Palestine has found it necessary to requisition a considerable amount of property and has also in a number of cases rented property under lease. The Government of Palestine has certain liabilities in respect of dilapidations as regards this property and although no firm estimate of the amount involved is at present known, a figure of between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds has been mentioned. It is the Government of Palestine's intention to try to get an agreed list of dilapidations with the landlords before the termination of the Mandate, but even if this object is achieved, which is by no means certain, the Commission will be faced with the problem of paying appropriate compensation.

(8) Financial Matters.

It is not possible at this stage to give the Commission details of the proposals for settlement of the many and various financial questions which will arise. The following are, however, a few of the main points which will have to be considered at some stage:

- (i) General financial position and statement of assets and liabilities, distinguishing between His Majesty's Government's assets in Palestine and the assets of the Government of Palestine.
- (ii) Payment of compensation terms to officers both British and Palestinian on the termination of the present Palestine Administration.
- (iii) Special arrangements for payment to be made outside Palestine (i.e. in the United Kingdom) after the date of the termination of the Mandate.

/(iv) Position

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(vii) Procedure to be followed as regards computation and payment of retiring benefits to Palestinian Officers.

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(2) Eastern Dept.
Foreign Office

PALESTINE.

~~E 123456789~~

Draft Statement for the Session of the
Commission on 14th January, 1948.

At the outset of our discussions, it is perhaps desirable that I should once more reaffirm the position from which His Majesty's Government have not deviated since the original statements were made in the course of the recent session of the Assembly. As a good member of the United Nations, my Government have accepted the General Assembly's decision insofar as its terms do not conflict with the conditions laid down by the United Kingdom spokesmen during the discussions both in the Ad Hoc Committee and the General Assembly.

2. My Government have already announced their intention to complete the withdrawal of British forces from Palestine by 1st August of this year. I am instructed to inform the Commission that, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Plan that the Mandate shall terminate as soon as possible, His Majesty's Government have decided to lay down the Mandate and terminate the mandatory administration at the latest on May 15th, or earlier, if the necessary arrangements can be completed in time. At the moment, I am not in a position to state definitely whether an earlier date is likely to be achieved, but I hope to be able to do so in the near future. One important point must be made clear in regard to this date. His Majesty's Government regard it as essential that, so long as the mandatory regime is maintained, they must retain undivided control over the whole of Palestine. On the appointed day, their responsibility for the government of Palestine will be relinquished as a whole; they cannot agree to relinquish it piecemeal. They are, however, prepared to agree to the Commission's arrival in Palestine shortly before the Mandate is terminated, in order that there may be an overlap of, say, a fortnight during which the Commission can take up its responsibilities.

/3. Subject

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5. There are a number of important matters arising out of the relinquishment of authority by the mandatory administration and its assumption by the Commission, in regard to which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom wish to consult with the Commission. No doubt there are also many questions which the Commission wish to raise with my Government. In all these matters, my Government will endeavour to give the Commission the benefit of their experience and knowledge of the situation in Palestine, subject always to their decision that they are unable to take part in the implementation of the United Nations Plan.

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NOTE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PALESTINE

(Communicated to United Nations Commission on 28th January, 1948).

The following information has been received from Palestine since the United Kingdom Delegation appeared before the Commission on Wednesday, 21st January:

A. GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

(1) British Police.

British Police have been withdrawn from the Tel Aviv area. British Police have also been withdrawn (except for Divisional Headquarters Staff) from Nablus, Hebron, Jericho and from certain isolated police posts in Northern Palestine.

(2) Local Authorities.

Legislation is being prepared to give Local Authorities wider powers. Local Authorities are now operating all water supplies owned by the Government of Palestine. Plans for the handing over of Arab schools to the management of Local Authorities are also being prepared. It is proposed to supply a six months' supply of drugs and dressings to the Treatment Centres and it is hoped to persuade medical practitioners to maintain these centres. As the Commission have already been informed, it is proposed to empower Local Authorities to collect and disburse the Urban Property Tax with effect from 1st April 1948 so as to furnish them with funds to meet the cost of these transferred services.

It has not yet proved possible to make arrangements for the disposal of grain and other food stuffs.

In Jaffa, the Arab Municipal Police Force of 300 men has been formed. A similar force with Jewish and Arab police is being formed for the Jerusalem Municipality. Municipal police forces on a similar basis are being formed in eighteen other medium sized Arab towns. A country-wide scheme for the enrollment of armed Special Constables in Arab villages is being initiated. The intention is that these forces shall be part of the

/Palestine

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Palestine Police Force until they are transferred to the Local Authorities.

(3) Extent of Government Services.

As the Commission has already been informed, it is the policy to maintain administration in full until the termination of the Mandate, and it is not the present intention to close down any department until then. In Jerusalem, Headquarters Offices which were recently working at below 50% overall efficiency are now working at about 75%. This improvement is due to the introduction into Jerusalem of additional British police and other security arrangements. As regards the rest of Palestine, all services are working but not above the 75% efficiency level.

(4) Replacement of British by Palestinian Officers.

No British Officers have as yet been replaced by Palestinians but arrangements are being made whereby Palestinian Officers are appointed to perform the duties of British Officers as and when the latter proceed on leave. It is reported that the practical effect of this scheme will be very limited.

B. SECURITY.

(1) Main Areas of Trouble.

The main areas of trouble are:

- (a) the mixed quarters of the three large towns (i.e. Jerusalem, Haifa and Jaffa-Tel Aviv)
- (b) the Jerusalem-Jaffa Road where incidents have been reduced by extensive patrolling but where it is impossible to prevent incidents entirely
- (c) the Haifa-Kantara Railway in the Samaria-Lydd district where there have been a number of armed hold-ups by Arabs, now reduced as a result of provision of armed escorts conveying trains.
- (d) Isolated Jewish Colonies, particularly in the Beersheba, Hebron and Galilee districts.

(2) Maintenance of Law and Order.

The general position is precarious because of planned outrages by large Arab gangs and the reprisal policy of the Hagana. Individual Arab and Jewish murderers are escaping "unscathed". Apart from these /inter-communal

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(5) Palestine Potash.

Production of potash has temporarily ceased owing to the lack of adequate fuel reserve and the inability as yet to procure fresh supplies. A further source of difficulty in this respect is due to attacks on convoys despite the fact that they have been fully escorted.

(6) Haifa Oil Refineries.

The Consolidated Refineries Limited resumed work on a modest scale on 22nd January and it is hoped that they will be in full production within three weeks. If further troubles do not prevent this, the shortage of fuel supplies referred to above will be much alleviated.

D. GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

So far as can be seen at present, a considerable deficit may be expected at the termination of the Mandate. The main causes of this are

(a) that the Government of Palestine has had to bear the cost of maintaining illegal immigrants in Cyprus, which up to 15th May (but excluding the additional cost due to the recent 100% increase in the number of illegal immigrants in Cyprus) is estimated at about five and three-quarter million pounds;

(b) the falling-off in anticipated revenue due to the deterioration in the security situation, which is estimated to amount to about one and one-quarter million pounds.

The deficit is expected to amount to some six million pounds.

E. EVACUATION OF CIVILIANS AND FAMILIES.

Since the 1st January, 51 officials, 2 wives and 5 children of officials, have left Palestine on final departure. British officers whose services can be dispensed with are being sent on leave with their families. The intention is that there shall be no women officials or British wives and children of officials in the country during the month preceding the date of the termination of the Mandate. There will, of course, be certain non-government British civilians in Palestine after that date.

January 28th, 1948.

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No. P(NY)6a

Palestine Distribution.

MEMORANDUM.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of Palestine have no objection to the arrival in Palestine, as soon as may be convenient, of one or two members of the Commission's secretariat staff.

2. It is suggested that the purpose of this advance party's visit should be

- (a) to make arrangements for the reception of the Commission (i.e. accommodation, transport, etc.)
- (b) to consult with the Government of Palestine as to the departmental staff which the Commission will require for the purpose of taking over the administration of Palestine, and to consider measures to be taken regarding the arrival of this staff in Palestine and its consultations with existing departmental heads
- (c) To do whatever is possible before the Commission's arrival as regards establishing contacts with Jewish and Arab organisations.
- (d) to make whatever other preliminary arrangements may be possible.

3. As regards (a) above, the Government of Palestine can, if desired, arrange transport and security for the Commission's journey from Lydda to Jerusalem; but the advance party will no doubt wish to make detailed arrangements in consultation with the Government of Palestine for the Commission's accommodation and security.

4. The Government of Palestine appreciate the Commission may wish to proceed to Jerusalem at an early stage. They feel obliged, however, to draw attention to the danger that the Commission's arrival there may constitute a disturbing element in an already inflammable situation.

5. In view of this consideration, and since the choice of, e.g., Tel Aviv as headquarters might be regarded as undesirable by the Commission, the Government of Palestine suggest for the consideration of the Commission their possible accommodation at Aqir. This is a large Royal Air Force Station with a first-class airfield, at which, after evacuation of Royal Air Force personnel, there will be accommodation for at least 1,500. In this connection the Commission should know that there is a strong prospect of the Lydda Airport being unusable after May 15th. Aqir is situated in an area which it is proposed should form part of the Jewish area allotted to the Jewish State, about three kilometres south of Rehovoth, but it is easily accessible to the Arabs, being only about seven kilometres from Ramleh.

6. Tenders for the purchase of Aqir and other possible suitable military camps are now being considered by the military authorities in Palestine and stripping of these camps is beginning. If, therefore, the Commission are interested in the possibility of Aqir or any other camp, the Government of Palestine will require immediate information.

29th January, 1948.

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Palestine Distribution.

Eastern Dept (2)
Foreign Office

30th January, 1948

You will remember that you raised with me in conversation the other day the question of a security force to preserve law and order in Jerusalem.

2. We have now received further information from Palestine on this point which may be helpful to you.

- (i) At the present time in the City of Jerusalem area as defined by the General Assembly's Plan there are 900 British Police and 350 Palestinian Police, supported by more than a brigade of troops.
- (ii) Before the end of February the Government of Palestine hope to have established a Municipal Police Force of 300 Arabs and 300 Jews. It is proposed that this force should remain in being after the date of the termination of the Mandate.
- (iii) In addition to these Arab-Jewish Municipal Police, the Government of Palestine considers that a force of one thousand non-Jewish non-Arab personnel would be the minimum required for the preservation of law and order in this area.
- (iv) There are indications that a fair number of British Police would volunteer, after the termination of their contracts with the present Administration, for service with such a force but it is impossible to give a reliable estimate until further information is available as to the proposed terms of service which would be offered and whether such service would be under British command. Most of the British Police who might be likely to volunteer would be of junior rank and rather inexperienced and it is probable that very few volunteers of the rank of Inspector and upwards would be forthcoming.
- (v) It is estimated that a force of one thousand non-Jewish non-Arab personnel would cost more than £40,000 per mensem, excluding the cost of accommodation, arms, and ammunition and the capital cost of transport. The mixed Municipal Force referred to above would cost about £12,000 per mensem, so that the Municipalities are not likely to be able to contribute to the cost of the larger force.

3. The Government of Palestine have informed us that if there is to be any question of calling for volunteers from the British Section of the Police for service in a security force in Jerusalem, they must know definitely within the next two to three weeks, otherwise there will be little or no chance of any such volunteers being available.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Alexander Cadogan.

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Palestine Distribution

PALESTINE COMMISSION

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE RECEIVED FROM THE COMMISSION ON 19th JANUARY
(Memorandum communicated to Commission on January 30th, 1948)

SECTION A: SECURITY

QUESTION 1.

In what manner does the United Kingdom Government propose to consult with the Commission as to the time and nature of its evacuation of each locality in each area prior to such evacuation? Does the United Kingdom Government intend that an "area" occupied by British armed forces should mean the actual locality in physical occupation?

ANSWER 1.

The outline plan and timetable of the military withdrawal have already been communicated to the Commission in the statement which I made on the 14th January. Any alterations to this plan will similarly be communicated to the Commission. On the termination of the Mandate, the General Officer Commanding will define by proclamation those areas in which he may need to exercise his over-riding military jurisdiction.

QUESTION 2.

What are the plans of the United Kingdom Government with regard to the withdrawal of the Arab Legion, the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force, and the British personnel of the Palestine Police Force? What disposition is to be made and when, of the arms, equipment, stores, etc. of the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force? Has the United Kingdom Government any proposals to make to the Commission with regard to the transfer of the Palestine Police Force, its arms, equipment, stores, etc.?

ANSWER 2.

The units of the Arab Legion in Palestine will be returned to Trans-Jordan before the termination of the Mandate. The Trans-Jordan Frontier Force will be disarmed and disbanded before the termination of the Mandate. The arms and equipment of the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force, all of which have been provided from British Army sources, will in the case of munitions of war either be removed from Palestine by the British forces or destroyed, and in the case of other material, either removed or otherwise disposed of.

The appointments and contracts of all members of the Palestine Police Force will be terminated with effect from the 15th May, the Force will thus cease to exist on that date and cannot as such be transferred, although its members may individually wish to serve under a new authority. It is expected that the British personnel will, for the most part, prefer to leave Palestine.

The arms, equipment and stores of the Palestine Police Force will be left for the successor authorities, and the Palestine Government will welcome the views of the Commission on the practical steps involved.

QUESTION 3.

What is the policy of the United Kingdom Government at the present time with regard to supplies of arms, ammunitions, military equipment, etc., to individuals, organisations or communities in Palestine and is any change in/-

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ANSWER 3.

No such equipment is being supplied to individuals, organisations or communities in Palestine, except to certain police forces being established by the Mandatory Government. No change in this policy is contemplated.

QUESTION 42

What is the position of the United Kingdom Government with regard to para. 8 of section B of Part I of the Assembly's resolution, which reads as follows: "The Provisional Council of Government of each State shall, within the shortest time possible, recruit an armed militia from the residents of that State, sufficient in number to maintain internal order and to prevent frontier clashes. This armed militia in each State shall, for operational purposes, be under the command of Jewish or Arab officers resident in that State but general political and military control, including the choice of the militia's High Command, shall be exercised by the Commission."

ANSWER 42

My Government cannot allow the formation of such forces prior to the termination of the Mandate. After that date, there will be no obstacle to recruitment in the areas evacuated by His Majesty's Forces. In the areas in which the General Officer Commanding is exercising his over-riding military jurisdiction, full discretion in this matter will be given to him.

QUESTION 5.

Will the Mandatory Power, prior to the termination of the Mandate, be prepared to facilitate the work of the Commission respecting the measures it may take to establish the armed militia for each State?

ANSWER 5.

My Government would be prepared to consider any specific request not incompatible with the position adopted in the reply I have just given to Question 4.

QUESTION 6.

Will the Mandatory Power continue to accept responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in areas for which its forces have been evacuated prior to the termination of the Mandate?

ANSWER 6.

Yes.

QUESTION 7.

After the termination of the Mandate what functions or responsibilities will be discharged by British forces in the areas still occupied by them, with respect to maintaining law and order?

QUESTION 8.

What will be the legal status of the armed forces of the United Kingdom in Palestine after the termination of the Mandate? Is it correct to assume that they will be considered as armed forces on foreign territory?

ANSWER TO/-

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ANSWER TO QUESTIONS 7 and 8.

My Government intend to make available to the Commission as soon as possible the Directive now being prepared for issue to the General Officer Commanding on the exercise of his authority during the period between the termination of the Mandate and the evacuation of British military forces. The answers to these two questions will be covered by this Directive.

QUESTION 9.

Will the Mandatory Power be prepared to communicate to the Commission what steps it would intend to take in case of armed aggression against Palestine territory, either prior to the termination of the Mandate or after its termination but before the complete evacuation of British forces from the country?

ANSWER 9.

Prior to the termination of the Mandate, the Mandatory Power will defend the whole country against any armed aggression. Such aggression after the termination of the Mandate would be resisted only if it constituted an attack on the British forces remaining in Palestine or their communications.

SECTION B: THE COMMISSION'S DISCHARGE OF ITS ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES.

QUESTION 1.

Having regard to the statement of Sir Alexander Cadogan at its sixth meeting on 14th January, to the effect that the United Kingdom Government will relinquish its responsibility for the government of Palestine "....as a whole. They cannot agree to relinquish it piecemeal", what interpretation does the United Kingdom Government place upon and what are its plans with regard to paragraph 2, Section B of Part I of the General Assembly's resolution, which reads as follows:-

"The administration of Palestine shall, as the Mandatory Power withdraws its armed forces, be progressively turned over to the Commission, which shall act in conformity with the recommendations of the General Assembly, under the guidance of the Security Council. The Mandatory Power shall to the fullest possible extent co-ordinate its plans for withdrawal with the plans of the Commission to take over and administer areas which have been evacuated.

" In the discharge of this administrative responsibility the Commission shall have authority to issue necessary regulations and take other measures as required.

"The Mandatory Power shall not take any action to prevent, obstruct or delay the implementation by the Commission of the measures recommended by the General Assembly".

ANSWER 1.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom assume that paragraph 2 of Section B of Part I of the Plan of Partition with Economic Union applies only after the termination of the Mandate. With effect from the date of the termination of the Mandate therefore, the whole of Palestine will be at the disposal of the Commission subject to over-riding control by the General Officer Commanding in those areas in which he is in military occupation, which will be progressively reduced. The Commission will be informed in advance of the reductions contemplated.

QUESTION 2./-

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QUESTION 2.

Is it to be understood from Sir Alexander's statement to the Commission at its sixth meeting on 14th January, that his Government would be "prepared to agree to the Commission's arrival in Palestine shortly before the Mandate is terminated, in order that there may be an overlap of, say, a fortnight during which the Commission can take up its responsibilities", that the Government of the United Kingdom would not regard favourably a decision of the Commission to come to Palestine at an earlier date if the Commission should consider this necessary for the discharge of its functions?

ANSWER 2.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom would not regard favourably any proposal by the Commission to proceed to Palestine earlier than two weeks before the date of the termination of the Mandate.

QUESTION 3.

What measures is the Mandatory Power, as the sole authority in Palestine until the termination of the Mandate, prepared to take with regard to the security of Palestine Commission in Palestine? What facilities is the Mandatory Power prepared to provide for the accommodation and transportation of the Commission in Palestine?

ANSWER 3.

Responsibility for the security of the Commission will be accepted by the Mandatory Power so long as the Mandate continues, provided that the period between the Commission's arrival in Palestine and the termination of the Mandate does not exceed two weeks. This responsibility can only be accepted if the Commission are prepared to accept the advice of the Government of Palestine by limiting its activities to those for which the Government of Palestine could undertake to offer protection. As regards accommodation and transportation, the Government of Palestine will give all possible assistance to any staff that the Commission may wish to send to Palestine for the purpose of finding accommodation and making arrangements for the necessary facilities but it is not in a position to provide these itself. Additional information on this point has already been supplied to the Commission.

QUESTION 4.

Does the Mandatory Power propose to maintain administrative services unchanged in areas from which its forces have been evacuated prior to the date of termination of the Mandate?

ANSWER 4.

Yes, although the extent and efficiency of administrative services provided in these as in other areas will depend upon the degree to which it is possible to maintain order.

QUESTION 5.

In what manner is the Mandatory Power prepared, prior to the termination of the Mandate, to facilitate the work of the Commission respecting the measures it must take to establish

- (a) the new frontiers?
- (b) the Provisional Councils of Government?

ANSWER 5/-

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ANSWER 5.

(a) The Mandatory Power cannot facilitate the delimitations of frontiers on the ground although it is prepared to make available to the Commission all information in its possession which may be relevant to subsequent delimitation.

(b) Subject to its over-riding responsibility for the maintenance of law and order, the Mandatory Power would not impede any preliminary measures taken by the Commission with this object in view, although such Councils could not exercise any authority prior to the date of the termination of the Mandate.

QUESTION 6.

How will the Commission have access to the files and information of the Palestine Administration prior to the termination of the Mandate?

ANSWER 6.

It is suggested that the Commission or its staff should take up this question on arrival in Palestine.

QUESTION 7.

Does the Mandatory Power intend to take preliminary steps in consultation with the Commission, prior to the termination of the Mandate, to partition the functions and personnel of the Palestine Government Departments in order to facilitate a smooth and orderly transfer of authority?

ANSWER 7.

For practical reasons the Mandatory Power cannot undertake to re-organise the functions or personnel of departments during the closing stages of its administration of the Mandate. As the Commission have already been informed, it is not expected that there will be any Arab staff who are prepared to work for the Commission after the date of termination of the Mandate.

QUESTION 8.

What are the numbers and rank in each Department of the Palestine Government of

- (a) British
- (b) Arab
- (c) Jewish

personnel? Will the Mandatory Power supply the Commission regularly with information concerning any changes in the composition of this personnel?

ANSWER 8.

The Government of Palestine will provide this information as soon as possible and any significant changes will be notified from time to time.

QUESTION 2.

The Resolution (Part I, E.2, page 14) provides that:

"During the period between the appointment of the United Nations Commission and the termination of the Mandate, the Mandatory Power shall, except in respect of ordinary operations, consult with the Commission on any measure which it may contemplate involving the liquidation, disposal or encumbering of the assets of the Palestine Government, such as the

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accumulated treasury surplus, the proceeds of Government bond issues, State lands or any other asset".

Has the United Kingdom Government any proposals as to the method to be followed for such consultations and as to the date of starting such consultations?

ANSWER 9.

I hope to be in a position to inform the Commission of the views of my Government on this point in the near future.

QUESTION 10.

Is the delegation of the United Kingdom in a position to give the Commission an account of the present food situation in Palestine, and particularly of any arrangements for the importation of essential food during the next few months?

ANSWER 10.

Certain information has already been supplied to the Commission's staff on this point and it is hoped that further information from the Government of Palestine will be available in the near future.

QUESTION 11.

Has the Mandatory Power prepared any plans which would ensure that in the transfer of responsibility to the United Nations Commission, the essential measures of the Palestine Administration for securing sufficient food supplies for all the population of Palestine can continue in operation?

ANSWER 11.

Instructions on this point are expected in the near future.

QUESTION 12.

Is the United Kingdom Government prepared to enter into consultation with the Commission at an early date with regard to the measures to be taken to ensure the continuation of the machinery of public information essential to the fulfilment of the Commission's tasks?

EXHIBIT 12.

It is not quite clear what is meant by the expression "machinery of public information". It is presumed that the Commission will wish to make arrangements to continue the operation of the broadcasting station now operated by the Palestine Broadcasting Service, which is a department of the Government of Palestine.

QUESTION 13.

On the appointed day for the termination of the Mandate, is it the Mandatory Power's intention to turn over to the Commission "the whole complex of governmental responsibilities for the whole of Palestine" without any reservations?

ANSWER 13.

It will be open to the Commission on the date of the termination of the Mandate to assume full responsibility for Government in the whole of Palestine, subject to the overriding military jurisdiction of the General

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Commanding in areas to be specified by him. Details of the powers of the General Officer Commanding will be brought to the notice of the Commission as soon as they are available.

QUESTION 14.

What is the time-table and what are the details of the United Kingdom's plan of withdrawal with respect to matters of civil administration?

ANSWER 14.

Civil administration will be maintained throughout Palestine as far as the security situation permits until the date of the termination of the Mandate. As the Commission have already been informed, the responsibility of the Mandatory Power will be relinquished as a whole on that date.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom would like to take this opportunity of making clear to the Commission their views as to the position of Palestinian staff after the date of termination of the Mandate. As the Government of Palestine, the present employer of all British and Palestinian staff will cease to exist on 15th May, all appointments, contracts and agreements with that employer must, therefore, be terminated by that date. It will be open to the Commission or to any successor authority to offer employment to any personnel thus released. There can be no question of the outgoing authority handing over to the Commission their former servants under any obligation, by the terms of their employment to continue service with the Commission. In these circumstances, it is essential that the Commission should announce at an early date the terms which it is proposed to offer to Palestinian officers and also to those British officers who may decide to terminate their appointments with the British Administration so that the Commission may be given information as to what personnel are likely to be available in Palestine.

QUESTION 15.

Is the Mandatory Power prepared, in view of paragraph 12 of Section B, Part I of the Assembly resolution, to include in the assistance which it may render to the Palestine Commission the temporary secondment to essential posts in Palestine of any of the personnel in the Palestine administration for service under the Commission during the transitional period?

ANSWER 15.

British personnel cannot be seconded to the staff of the United Nations Commission for service in Palestine because His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have frequently made it clear that they are unable to provide any part of the machinery of implementation. It will, of course, be open to any British officers who do not intend to remain in the service of the Crown to volunteer for service with the Commission.

QUESTION 16.

What measures are planned by the Mandatory Power to secure the transfer of the files and archives of the Palestine Government to the Commission, and, inter alia, what measures are planned by the Mandatory Power to preserve and turn over to the Commission the records of land surveys and land settlement in the archives of the Palestine Government?

ANSWER 16.

As is suggested in the answer to Question (6), the Commission or its staff will no doubt wish to take up this question on their arrival in Palestine.

QUESTION 17/-

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(a) maintaining public services?
(b) civil administration?

ANALYSIS

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NOTE ON CERTAIN SECURITY POINTS ARISING OUT OF DISCUSSION

WITH THE COMMISSION ON WEDNESDAY, 21st JANUARY,

(Sent to the Secretary of the United Nations Commission
on January 31st, 1948)

The following information has now been received from the Government
of Palestine in reply to certain questions put to the United Kingdom
Delegation by members of the Commission on 21st January:

I. DESERTIONS FROM THE PALESTINE POLICE FORCE.

(a) 372 Arabs of whom 2 are regular Police, 21 temporary additional
police, 152 supernumerary Police employed by H.M. Forces, 8 supernumerary
police privately employed have deserted since 29th November, 1947. These
deserters took with them 471 rifles, 3 Bren guns, 1 Thompson sub-machine
gun, 19 grenades, 5 revolvers, 5 Verrey pistols, 104 Verrey cartridges, and
12,512 rounds of ammunition.

(b) No Jews have deserted from the Palestine Police Force.

II. DESERTIONS FROM THE TRANS-JORDAN FRONTIER FORCE

70 men are reported to have deserted from the Trans-Jordan Frontier
Force since 29th November, 1947, taking with them 67 rifles, 38 automatic
weapons and 3 pistols.

III. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PALESTINE POLICE FORCE AND CERTAIN OTHER
BODIES.

(a) Mishmar.

This body, which was raised by the Jewish Agency with the approval
of the Government of Palestine, operates only in the Tel Aviv-Ramatgan-
Potah Tikvah area from which British and Arab Police have been withdrawn.
Permission to raise this force was granted on the express understanding
that it was to be used for maintaining law and order within, and preventing
breaches of the peace by members of, the Jewish community and in

particular/

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particular the dissident groups. Mishmar is required to keep in touch with the regular Jewish Police who remain in the area and who continue to function in the normal way as part of the Palestine Police Force under the Inspector-General of Police.

(b) Arab Municipal Police.

These forces are being raised in purely Arab areas on the basis of 50% temporary additional constables and 50% special constables provided by the Municipalities and Local Councils concerned. They operate under the direct control of the regular police formations in their respective Police Districts and are being formed with the object of assisting the regular police in maintaining law and order now and of remaining after the termination of the Mandate an organisation capable of enforcing order and if necessary of defending towns and villages against attack.

(c) Hagana.

The Hagana is an organisation of the Jewish Agency which is not legally recognised. Unarmed members, however, who perform watch and ward duties in Jewish areas are permitted to function on the basis that it is an elementary right of citizens to protect themselves. Where any private organisation, including the Hagana, takes offensive action or where its members are found in possession of unlicensed firearms, they are of course dealt with in accordance with the law. To co-ordinate watch and ward duties carried out by unarmed Jewish citizens, certain persons who are known to be members of the Hagana have been recognised and these for want of a better term are known as liaison officers. Similarly on the Arab side, contact is maintained with members or representatives of Arab National Committees.

IV. ORGANISATION OF (a) MISHMAR and (b) ARAB MUNICIPAL POLICE.

(a) Mishmar.

The details of the organisation of Mishmar have been left to the Jewish Agency provided that the overriding principle is maintained that they/

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they work in close co-operation with the local Jewish regular police. Mishmar numbers not more than 500 and is entirely paid by the Jewish Agency who are also responsible for finding the arms. Government's part in this arrangement is limited to the issue of firearm licences up to an approved limit and valid only within the Mishmar area.

(b) Arab Municipal Police.

These Police Forces are still in the early stages of formation and accurate figures of their strengths cannot be given at present. In Jaffa, 300 men have been enrolled and in Jerusalem it is proposed to enroll 300 Arabs and 300 Jews. Elsewhere, the Government principle is that the personnel of these forces should not exceed 100 in the larger towns such as Nablus, Hebron and Gaza and 50 in such places as Tullarn, Beisan and Jenin. Enrollment of special constables for protection of villages on a voluntary unpaid basis is contemplated at a later stage. Municipal Forces are made up as to one half by temporary additional constables paid by Government and as to the other half by special constables paid by the Municipality or Local Council concerned. Similarly, arms are provided by Government for half of each force, the balance being found by the Municipality or Local Council.

V. REFERENCE TO SHRAPNEL WOUNDS.

In the majority of cases shrapnel wounds have been caused by various types of bombs or grenades. It is known, however, that the Jews have a considerable number of mortars and their use has been verified on three different occasions during the month of January. Unexploded two-inch mortar bombs were found by security forces in Jewish houses or areas in Jerusalem on 3rd and 11th January and in Jaffa-Tel Aviv on 21st January. There is no reason to suppose that the Jews have any heavier armaments though the possibility of the further use of barrel bombs such as that which wrecked Police Headquarters at Haifa cannot be excluded. It is suspected that the Arabs may have a limited number of French mortars.

VI./

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VI. USE OF AIRCRAFT.

Jewish planes have been used to drop messages and supplies to outlying settlements but there is no reason to suppose at present that these aircraft are armed.

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31st January, 1948.

Dear Bunche,

You will remember that you asked me if I could obtain from Jerusalem a list of "The Democratic Parties and other Public Organisations of the Arab and Jewish States" which it would be appropriate for the Commission to consult in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of Part I, Section B of the General Assembly's Plan of Partition with Economic Union, (page 3 of A/516). I enclose herewith a list of these organisations.

As far as the Arab Organisations are concerned, you will no doubt appreciate that although the Arab Higher Committee is generally representative of Arab opinion in Palestine, it is not representative of all political parties. It should also be pointed out that the leaders of the parties listed on pages 947 to 950 of Vol.2 of the Palestine Survey are all self-appointed. The Arab offices referred to on page 142 of the Supplement to the Survey prepared for UNSCOP are all the nominations of Musa Alami who, although he has a following in Palestine, owes his position to financial and other support from Iraq. You will appreciate, no doubt, that the Supreme Muslim Council is a government institution.

It is felt that contact with the Organisations indicated in this list (~~excluding~~ moribund political parties) would give the Commission a representative picture of Arab views but in conveying this information to me, the Government of Palestine have again emphasised that in their view no Arab body or individual is likely to be willing to have anything to do with the Commission.

No comments have been forthcoming from Palestine as regards the list of Jewish Organisations.

I hope this will provide the information you require but if there is anything else I can do in this matter, you will no doubt let me know.

Yours sincerely,

J. Fletcher-Cooke

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
Lake Success, N.Y.

P.S. I enclose copies of the Palestine Press Review for 14th, 15th and 16th January which have just arrived.

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NOTE COMMUNICATED TO U.N. COMMISSIONS

on

3rd February, 1948

FOOD SUPPLIES

It will be remembered that when the United Kingdom Delegation met the Palestine Commission on Friday, 30th January, answers to Questions B (10) and (11) were not yet available. The answers to these questions are now set out below:-

QUESTION (10)

Is the Delegation of the United Kingdom in a position to give the Commission an account of the present food situation in Palestine and particularly of any arrangements for the importation of essential food during the next few months?

QUESTION (11).

Has the Mandatory Power prepared any plans which would ensure that in the transfer of responsibility to the United Nations Commission, the essential measures of the Palestine Administration for securing sufficient food supplies for all the population of Palestine can continue in operation?

ANSWER TO QUESTION (10)

Full details of stocks in hand and shipments/^{expected}are en route by air mail from Jerusalem and will be furnished to the Commission as soon as they are received.

2. Food stuffs for Palestine may be divided into two categories

- (a) those which are procured under the directions of the International Emergency Food Council in Washington and other controlled commodities, and
- (b) those which are supplied and distributed through normal trade channels.

3. The present position as regards food stocks is reported to be satisfactory but security considerations are increasing the difficulties of
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distribution. In particular, great difficulty is being experienced in the local production and distribution of flour as a result of train robberies, attacks on road transport, and for other reasons. The flour mills at Haifa were recently closed for three days as the streets were unsafe for traffic. In these circumstances, the Government of Palestine have come to the conclusion that so far as may be possible, local production of adulterated standard flour should be temporarily suspended and replaced by deliveries of imported wheat-flour direct from ship to distribution centres. This would obviate present dependence on local milling facilities and would result in economies in handling and transport.

4. It should also be pointed out that as Palestine flour mills are mostly Jewish-owned, the Arab population is dependent on Jewish mills for at least 50% of its flour requirements and that as withdrawal approaches it will be increasingly difficult to ensure distribution to Arab consumers of flour produced in Jewish mills.

5. The Government of Palestine have, therefore, asked that the Ministry of Food in the United Kingdom should try to ensure that all cereal shipments effected prior to the date of the termination of the Mandate should be in the form of wheat-flour, at the rate of 13,000 tons per month. The possibility of complying with this request is being considered in the United Kingdom but it must be pointed out that if it is found possible to do this, it will add considerably to the cost of such imports.

6. The following provisional figures are submitted for the Commission's informations:

(a) Shipments made and already received

Flour	6,500 tons
Barley	24,711 tons

(b) Shipments en route to Palestine

Flour	17,660 tons
Barley	8,500 tons
Sugar	1,500 tons

/(c) Following...

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Flour	8,500 tons
Wheat	18,000 tons
Rice	833 tons
Sugar	10,500 tons

7. It will be appreciated that if it is found possible to comply with the Government of Palestine's request for shipments of wheat-flour rather than wheat, the amounts shown under (c) above may have to be modified.

8. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom also sponsor Palestine requirements of nitrogen fertiliser allocated by the International Emergency Food Council. The amount of nitrogen fertiliser allocated to Palestine for the fertiliser season ended 30th June 1948 is 2,667 metric tons. Of this total, the United Kingdom is to supply 1,267 tons, Belgium 1,100 tons and Norway 300 tons. The United Kingdom deliveries are made through Imperial Chemical Industries (Levant), but the procurement of supplies within Belgium and Norwegian allocations is made by the Government of Palestine with such assistance as may be required from His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

ANSWER TO QUESTION (72).

(a) His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will maintain existing sponsorship, procurement and shipping of food and fertiliser supplies for Palestine which will be required up to the date of the termination of the Mandate.

(b) His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom will accept no direct responsibility for sponsorship, procurement and shipment of supplies which may be required subsequent to that date.

(c) Within the limitations of these decisions, His Majesty's Government are anxious to give all possible assistance to ensure that the continuity of food supplies for Palestine is maintained and it is suggested that it might be of assistance to the Commission in assessing the present supply position and in making their arrangements to take over the responsibility of food supplies for Palestine if they were to send a

/representative...

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(J. Fletcher-Cooke)
3rd February, 1948.

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(2) Eastern Dept.
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4th February, 1948

With reference to your letter of 28th January on the subject of the incursion of armed bands of Arabs into Palestine, I am directed by Sir Alexander Cadogan to forward to you, for the information of the Commission, the enclosed memorandum in which are set out the latest available facts in regard to these bands.

Yours sincerely,

(P.S. Falla)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary of the
United Nations Commission for Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success, L.I.

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MEMORANDUM FOR PALESTINE COMMISSION

1. The High Commissioner for Palestine reported on 27th January that the security position had become more serious during the preceding week with the entry into Palestine of large parties of trained guerrillas from adjacent territory. A band of some 300 men had established itself in the Safad area of Galilee, and it was probably this band or part of it which carried out an intensive attack during that week on Yechiam settlement, using mortars and heavy automatics as well as rifles.
2. On the same date, the High Commissioner further reported that a second large band of some 700 Syrians had entered Palestine via Transjordan during the night of 20 - 21 January. This band had its own mechanised transport, its members were well equipped and provisioned, and wore battle-dress. The party appears to have entered Transjordan from Syria and then crossed into Palestine at a point at which the entry of Syrians was not expected. The Syrian and Lebanese frontiers are manned on the Palestine side by both troops and police, although the nature of the border country makes it extremely difficult to secure the entire frontier against illegal entry, especially at night. On arrival in Palestine, this band appears to have dispersed, and it is thus now impracticable to deal with it by military action. So far as is known, its numbers have not engaged in illegal activity beyond the possession of arms.
3. Up to the present, no information has been received of any engagement between these two bands and the security forces. A clash at Kfar Szold is believed to have been with other marauders from outside Palestine.
4. Arab morale is considered to have risen steadily as a result of these re-inforcements, of the spectacular success of the Hebron Arabs in liquidating a Hagana column near Surif, and of the capture and successful dismantling by the Arab National Guard of a Jewish van filled with explosives which was to have been detonated in an Arab locality. Even the relatively serious loss of life and damage to property caused by Jewish reprisals, have, in the High Commissioner's view, failed to check the revival of confidence in the fellaheen and urban proletariat.

/Panic.....

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- 2 -

Panic continues to increase, however, throughout the Arab middle classes, and there is a steady exodus of those who can afford to leave the country.

5. Subsequent reports dated 2nd February indicate that a further party of troops belonging to the "Arab Liberation Army" arrived in Palestine via the Jisr Djamiyeh Bridge during the night of 29/30 January. The party, numbering some 950 men transported in 19 vehicles, consisted largely of non-Palestinian Arabs, all in uniform and well armed. It is now dispersed in small groups throughout villages of the Hablus, Jenin and Tulkarm sub-districts. The security forces have taken action to prevent further incursions across the Jisr Djamiyeh and the Sheikh Hussein Bridges.

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION

4th February, 1948.

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122
10th February, 1948.

(Dear Bunche)

You will remember that when the United Kingdom Delegation met the Commission on Friday, 30th January, I mentioned the fact that the Government of Palestine were proposing to give notice to the International Postal Union of the possible cessation of postal services in Palestine after the 15th May and that such notice would have to be given early in February.

You will also remember that the Commission expressed the view that the Government of Palestine should confine itself to informing the International Postal Union that it could no longer accept responsibility for the maintenance of postal services after 15th May inasmuch as the Mandate would be laid down on that date, but suggested that no reference should be made to the possibility of a cessation of postal services.

This discussion was reported to the Government of Palestine and I have now received information that the Government of Palestine has asked His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to advise the International Postal Union that the Government of Palestine will not accept responsibility for any postal transaction which are not completed by 15th May, the date of the laying down of the Mandate. In particular, the Government of Palestine will not accept responsibility for

- (a) parcels consigned to Palestine posted after 15th February, except parcels posted in those countries contiguous to Palestine in which case responsibility will not be accepted in respect of parcels posted after 29th February;
- (b) payment of Money Orders issued after 29th February.

Particular attention has been drawn to the fact that Administrations receiving or despatching postal material through Palestine will be affected.

The Government of Palestine has suggested to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that, in conveying this information to the International Postal Union, the Union might be asked to get in touch with the Commission with a view to ascertaining the Commission's plans in this matter.

(yours sincerely)

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission for Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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Individual attacks by Arabs on British troops and police have increased. These are due partly to a desire to obtain arms even at the price of murder, and partly to nervousness, particularly in rural areas, caused by the frequent use by the Jews of British uniforms in order to facilitate offensive action. Train robberies have been continuing, though with steadily decreasing success due to action by the Army. Road travel is still regarded as precarious though in many areas this is due as much to the personal fear of travellers as to the actual state of security obtaining.

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The most important clash between British Security Forces and Arabs took place near Tabgha when a military patrol went to the rescue of a Jewish truck which had been ambushed by a party of Arabs. In subsequent engagements, the military forces captured six Syrians originating from the Aleppo region and drove off the remainder.

The perpetrators of the outrage which occurred in Jerusalem on 1st February when the offices of the "Palestine Post" were gutted by an explosion are still unknown. Investigations are continuing. It is reported that this incident has so alarmed the Jews that they have at once increased both barriers and Hagana foot patrols round important Jewish areas and buildings in Jerusalem.

Jewish mobilisation has been intensive and males between the ages of seventeen and twenty-three are now liable to be called up for active service. Great efforts are being made to reinforce settlements with men and material, while information available to the Government of Palestine indicates that future immigrant ships will carry a high proportion of youngsters destined for the Jewish forces. A side-light on the completeness of the Jews' military programme is a series of urgent requests by various Jewish bodies for permission to use existing military air strips and to construct others in a country-wide strategic network.

All available evidence indicates that illegal immigration is unlikely to stop or even to decrease. As suggested above, the accent in future will be on able-bodied youths.

The first batch of 750 infants and sick persons out of approximately 7,000 to be transferred from Cyprus have arrived in Palestine without any noticeable reaction among the Arabs.

United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations,
10th February, 1948.

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P.(N.Y.) 15.

Palestine Distribution.

10th February, 1948.

(Dear Bunche),

May I refer you to paragraph 2 of my letter of 3rd February on the subject of the food supply position in Palestine.

I now enclose a schedule giving estimates of the basic foodstuffs position in Palestine.

You will appreciate that the commodities referred to in this schedule are those in respect of which the Food Control Department of the Government of Palestine is closely concerned, either because such foodstuffs are purchased against quotas arranged with the Ministry of Food or because they are purchased on Government account. As the supply and distribution of other articles of food is effected through normal trade channels, from the supply angle the Government of Palestine has no special responsibility in respect of such foodstuffs.

(Yours sincerely)

(Sgd.) J. Fletcher-Conke.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission for Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

Note. The letter of 3rd February referred to above covered the despatch to the Commission of the text of P.(N.Y.)11.

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ESTIMATE OF BASIC FOODSTUFFS
POSITION.

Commodity	Stocks at January 1st 1948 (in tons)	Replenishments arrived and scheduled to arrive between Jan. 1st and March 31st 1948 (in tons)	Stocks at March 31st if no further arrivals take place in the meantime (in tons)	How long will stocks last without further replenish- ment
Wheat	7,700	-	Nil	-
Barley	8,400	25,000	Nil	-
Rye	680	-	Nil	-
Wheat Flour	-	24,000	Nil	-
Rice	1,236	Unknown	Nil	-
Edible Oils	-	-	-	-
Oilseeds	4,200 (= 2,500 tons crude oil)	Unknown	Nil	-
Sugar	2,650	4,500	4,750	31st May, 1948
Butter (Australian)	15	75	Nil (see Note 3)	-
Cheese (Australian)	-	500 (late March)	500	30th June, 1948
Frozen Meat	-	1,350	1,000 (estimate)	31st May, 1948

Notes. 1. Ministry of Food are kept advised of Palestine's cereals position and are responsible for supplying cereals to the extent of programmed requirements which at the present time amount to 13,000 imported flour (or the quantity of cereals equivalent thereto) per mensem. Thus, although the above schedule shows stocks at 31st March, 1948, on the basis of present advices, as nil, it must be assumed that additional quantities will have been shipped to provide some carry-over at that date.

2. Arrivals of oilseeds are spasmodic and have not for some time past been sufficient to provide for more than a much reduced percentage of normal requirements. Existing stocks will be exhausted by end of February, 1948, and advice of further allocations is now awaited from Ministry of Food who, as for cereals, are responsible for supply to Palestine.

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3. Butter and Cheese are imported on Government account against limited quotas authorised by Ministry of Food, to supplement indigenous production. 750 tons of butter are on order and are expected to arrive in April. This will cover requirements until October if issued on existing rationed basis.

4. To relieve the severe shortage of fresh beef caused by the cessation of cattle exports from Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Transjordan to Palestine, Ministry of Food have for the first time authorised import against quota of Frozen Meat from Australia. Quantities listed represent an interim quota of 600 tons granted in the latter part of 1947 plus 750 tons for the period January 31st - May 15th, 1948, on the basis of 2400 per annum. Imports of frozen meat are being effected through normal trade channels.

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Palestine Distribution

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 52/132/48

February 9, 1948

(Dear Monsieur Lisicky)

With reference to discussions that have taken place about the plans of the Commission, I have been instructed to inform you

(i) that my Government would welcome an opportunity for discussions with members of the Commission in London;

(ii) that all reasonable facilities will be given for a nucleus of the Commission's staff to visit Palestine in advance of May 1st. (It is requested that as much notice as possible should be given of any proposed visit).

I am further to inform the Commission, in strict confidence, that the discussions in London may cover, inter alia, the question whether the Commission should proceed to Palestine before May 1st.

I should be grateful if you would inform me as soon as possible of the Commission's plans in the light of these suggestions.

It may also be useful to you to know that, as reported in the press today, the United Kingdom Secretary of State for the Colonies is coming to New York in order to attend the expected discussions of the Palestine question in the Security Council. He is expected to arrive on Sunday, February 15th.

(Yours sincerely,)

Sgd. A. Cadogan

Monsieur Lisicky,
Chairman,
United Nations Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success, L.I.

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P.(N.Y.) 16 Annex I

CONFIDENTIAL

The following information supplementary to P.(NY) 16 is not being communicated to the U.S. Delegation. It has, however, been communicated by the Commonwealth Relations Office to Dominion Governments, including those of India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

2. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have decided that when the question of the establishment of an international force for Palestine is discussed by the Security Council the United Kingdom Delegation should

- (a) make it clear that it is for the Council to determine what support is to be given to the United Nations Commission in Palestine;
- (b) reaffirm the intention of His Majesty's Government to withdraw their forces from Palestine by the 1st August and the fact that they are not willing to undertake, either individually or in association with others, to impose the United Nations decision by force; and
- (c) abstain from voting, but not exercise a veto.

3. It is further the policy of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that, if any resolution condemning the Arab States should be placed upon the agenda of the Security Council the United Kingdom Delegation should ensure that these States are given a fair hearing in accordance with Article 31 of the Charter.

United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations,
11th February, 1948.

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Palestine Distribution

CONFIDENTIAL

12th February, 1948.

(Dear Bunche)

As you will remember, Melania gave me advance information the other day that the Commission were proposing to send a party of four senior secretariat officers and two lady secretaries, who hoped to arrive in Palestine on or about 19th February. On receipt of this information, I sent a telegram to Jerusalem and have now received a reply which contains the following information.

The Government of Palestine had hoped to be able to put the advance party into the Y.M.C.A. building but it now transpires that all the Y.M.C.A. staff would leave at once if this was done. In these circumstances, the Government of Palestine have had to rule out this possibility. The Government of Palestine have also pointed out that if the advance party go into the Eden or any other Jewish hotel, they cannot be responsible for their security.

The Government of Palestine have, therefore, under consideration the possibility of putting the advance party into Police Headquarters in Zone "C" but they have pointed out that this is bound to be rather uncomfortable. They have also pointed out that if the advance party go anywhere else, they will require their own domestic staff.

In these circumstances, which show the real if slightly fantastic difficulties with which the Government of Palestine are faced, it has been suggested that the best course would be for the Transport and Accommodation Officer to go to Palestine alone about a week in advance of the rest of the party so that the Government of Palestine can assist him to arrange whatever alternative he selects.

I have since received your official letter regarding the proposed plans of the advance party and have telegraphed these to Jerusalem but in view of the difficulties existing in Palestine, you will no doubt let me know as soon as possible the Commission's views in the light of the information given above.

As regards Aqir, the intention is that this should remain the property of the Air Ministry and it is hoped that His Majesty's Government will permit the Commission to use it free of charge. I must, however, make it clear that on this latter point we have as yet received no instructions from London, and I cannot, therefore, give you a definite answer as regards the terms upon which the Commission will be permitted to occupy Aqir.

At the present time, there are only some eighty Royal Air Force personnel at Adir who are due to leave there on 21st February. It is reported that the buildings have already been looted and that those which remain will require substantial redecoration, for which it is assumed the Commission would engage their own contractors after inspection by members of their staff.

I must also bring to the Commission's notice the fact that if they go to Agir (or indeed anywhere else) they will require their own security force. The proposal that the Commission should go to

/Aqir was.....

Dr. Ralph J. Buncho,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations,
Commission for Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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(Yours sincerely),

Sgd. J. Fletcher-Cooke

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P.(N.Y.) 18

Palestine Distribution

No. 110/18/46.

12th February 1946

(My dear Bunche),

RECEIVED

You will remember that, during an informal conversation on the 28th January, we discussed the question of members of the British section of the Palestine police volunteering, after termination of their contracts, for service with any international security forces which might be established for the City of Jerusalem. This question was, I think, finally cleared up in Sir Alexander Cadogan's letter to Monsieur K. Lisicky of the 30th January, but in our conversation you went on to ask whether objection would be raised to British police personnel volunteering similarly after termination of their contracts for service under the Palestine Commission, or possibly even with Arab or Jewish states or organizations.

We now understand from London that there can be no objection to British police personnel, whose contracts are being terminated, volunteering for service with any successor authority in Palestine. We have not yet heard from the authorities in Jerusalem whether any estimate can be given of the numbers likely to volunteer for such service, and this may, indeed, be difficult for the reasons given in Sir Alexander Cadogan's letter referred to above. If, however, any further information comes through from Jerusalem on the point, I will, of course, immediately pass it on to you.

(Yours sincerely)

(Sgd.) Trafford Smith

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission for Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success, N.Y.

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P.(H.Y.) 19

Palestine Distribution

13th February 1948

(Dear Lunche),

May I refer you to my letter of 10th February regarding the notice to be given to the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union that the Government of Palestine would be unable to accept responsibility for the maintenance of postal services after 15th May.

I have now received confirmation from His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that it is proposed to inform the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union of the termination of United Kingdom responsibility for postal services in Palestine after 15th May. It is also proposed to notify the Bureau at the same time of any restrictions in the postal services which it may be necessary to impose before that date.

You will no doubt appreciate that it is very desirable that the Commission should send an early communication to the Universal Postal Union and it is suggested that this communication might contain inter alia

- (1) a notification that the Commission will assume responsibility for postal services after 15th May and will maintain them as far as possible in accordance with the provisions of the Postal Convention;
- (2) particulars of any restrictions which the Commission may find it necessary to impose in Palestine after 15th May.
- (3) an address to which communications from other Postal Administrations about Palestine Postal Services should be sent after 15th May.

The suggestion made in (2) of the preceding paragraph is put forward so that Postal Administrations may have timely notification of any restriction or suspension of service - particularly the more cumbersome and complicated services such as parcel post, registration etc.

I have also been asked to bring to the Commission's notice that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has a special interest as regards the Commission's views under (2) of paragraph 3 above, in view of the

large amount/....

Dr. Ralph J. Lunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission for Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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(Yours sincerely)

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Palestine Distribution

16th February, 1948.

Sir,

I am directed by Sir Alexander Cadogan to refer to your letter of 10th February on subject of the arrival in Palestine of an advance party of the Secretariat of the Palestine Commission and to inform you that the points referred to in your letter have been noted by the Government of Palestine, which will do everything possible to facilitate the work of the advance party.

As regards accommodation and security, the Government of Palestine would be glad to know as soon as possible whether (as suggested in paragraph 4 of Mr. Fletcher-Cooke's letter to you of 12th February) the Commission are disposed to send a Transport and Accommodation Officer to Palestine alone about a week in advance of the rest of the party, so that the Government of Palestine can assist him to arrange whatever accommodation he selects.

The Government of Palestine has pointed out that it would be as well if the actual date of arrival of the advance party in Palestine were not publicised but it is appreciated that this may not be possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations Commission
on Palestine.

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10 February 1948

I have the honour to refer to the memorandum of the United Kingdom dated 28 January concerning the arrival in Palestine of an advance party of the Secretariat of the Palestine Commission, and your letter of 9 February to the Chairman referring to the same matter, and to inform you that the Commission decided at its thirty-first meeting on 5 February to send such an advance party consisting of four senior officials and two secretaries for the following purposes:

- /It would be.....

His Excellency,
The Right Honourable Sir Alexander Cadogan, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations,
Permanent United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations,
New York 1, N.Y.

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It would be appreciated if all possible facilities could be granted to this advance party in carrying out the functions listed above, including access to files of the Palestine Government, as well as the usual diplomatic privileges and immunities, including the right to send and receive cyphered messages and to use a diplomatic pouch. It will be necessary for the party to pay an extended visit to Jerusalem for the purpose of undertaking the consultations and other functions mentioned above.

It is assumed that the Mandatory Power, which is responsible for law and order in Palestine until the termination of the Mandate, will accept responsibility for the security of the members of the proposed advance party.

No definite date for the departure of the advance party has been set, but it is hoped that the party may reach Palestine on or about 19 February. This date is subject to confirmation as soon as the date of departure is definitely known.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgd). Ralph J. Bunche
Principal Secretary.

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NOTE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PALESTINE

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/and was.....

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and was only brought to an end when the Security Forces occupied the disputed area.

5. A more or less static front has developed around Jaffa, where shooting proceeds day and night.

6. In Galilee there have been numerous attacks on traffic by both sides, and on several occasions the Army has had to engage Arab irregular forces.

7. Hagana is intensifying its policy of reprisals and now scarcely troubles to conceal its indifference to casualties thereby caused to non-combatants.

8. The Jews are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain supplies for their urban centres and scarcity of several commodities (particularly meat and eggs) is already acute.

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)
UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

16th February, 1948.

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(1) Papers

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(2) Record of Delegation Meetings

(2) Record of Delegation Meetings

16/2/48

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P(17Y) 22

17th February 1948

(Dear Bunche,)

May I refer you to your official letter of 10th February in which you enclosed a copy of a telegraphic message to the Chairman of the Commission from the Jewish Community Council of Haifa, alleging the murder of Jewish passengers in buses passing an Arab Legion Camp.

As I believe I have mentioned to you, I sent a copy of this telegraphic message to Jerusalem and I have now received the following comments from the Government of Palestine.

The facts of the incident which took place on 3rd February are as follows. A Convoy of Jewish buses was passing an Arab Legion Camp at Neve Sha Anan. Somebody in one of the convoy vehicles opened fire on the Arab Legion sentry at the main gate of the Camp. The latter and several members of the Arab Legion Guard returned the fire causing the buses to halt and one of them to run off the road. The passengers alighted and some took cover while others made their way to Neve Sha Anan and Tel Amal. A doctor from the Camp assisted by the Arab Legion Guards rendered first aid to the wounded.

During the subsequent investigations, an expended bullet of Thompson sub-machine gun calibre was found near the sentry's box and the marks of two bullets were also found in the wall of the building directly behind the sentry's box. These two bullets had evidently passed over the sentry's head from the direction of the roadway.

The total casualties in this incident amounted to two Jews killed and fifteen injured. There were no Arab Legion casualties.

The allegation that the Arab Legion opened fire without provocation is therefore not supported by the facts.

(Yours sincerely)

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine
United Nations
Lake Success.

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ANNEX I

UNITED NATIONS
Palestine Commission

10 February 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the United Nations Palestine Commission at its thirty-third meeting on 9 February 1948, decided that a copy of the telegraphic message to the Chairman of the Commission from the Jewish Community Council of Haifa should be sent to you. This copy is enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) RALPH J. BUNCHE
Principal Secretary.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable Sir Alexander Cadogan, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.
United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations
Permanent United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations
61st Floor
350 Fifth Avenue
New York 1, N.Y.

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COPY

Received 5 February 1948

HIT DOCTOR LISICKY CHAIRMAN PALESTINE IMPLEMENTATION
COMMISSION TWO LAKESUCCESS

HAIFA JEWRY OUTRAGED BY MURDER OF JEWISH PASSENGERS OF BUSES
PASSING ARAB LEGION CAMP SITUATED AT ENTRANCE OF JEWISH
SUBURB ON THIRD FEBRUARY STOP ARAB LEGION TROOPS OPENED FIRE
ENTIRELY UNPROVOKED STOP THIS IS SECOND CASE ON SAME SPOT
STOP OUR REPEATED REQUESTS TO REMOVE LEGION FROM JEWISH AREA
REMAINED UNHEEDED BY PALESTINE GOVERNMENT STOP REQUEST YOUR
IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ENSURE REMOVAL ARAB LEGION FROM JEWISH AREAS

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HAIFA.

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References:-

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United Nations Dept. (Foreign Office)
(2)

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P. (N.Y.) 23

Palestine Distribution

17th February, 1948.

(Dear Bunche),

I have been asked to bring to the Commission's notice the following point relating to the application to Palestine of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

During the negotiations at Geneva last year, the Government of Palestine was represented and both made and obtained tariff concessions. In order to make these concessions effective, it will be necessary for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to be provisionally applied to Palestine. This, in accordance with the Protocol of Provisional Application, requires the giving of thirty days' notice to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

It would appear that in accordance with the terms of paragraph 2 International Conventions, Chapter 3 of Section C of Part I of the Plan of Partition with Economic Union, the application to Palestine of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would be binding on the successor States subject to the right of denunciation by either State.

Under present arrangements the Agreement could only be provisionally applied to Palestine a few days before the responsibility for administration passes to the United Nations Commission. His Majesty's Government, however, consider that it would be to the advantage of Palestine that notice of provisional application should be given, and unless the Commission see any objection, they propose to proceed accordingly.

I should, therefore, be grateful if you would inform me whether the Commission agree to this proposal.

(Yours sincerely)

(Sgd.) J. Fletcher-Cooke.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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Palestine Distribution

CONFIDENTIAL.

17 February, 1948.

(My dear Bunche),

I have been asked to bring to the notice of the Commission the text of an announcement which will be released in Jerusalem at 3.0 p.m. (Palestine time) on Wednesday, 18th February. As you will see, it relates to a payment of £P300,000 to the Supreme Moslem Council.

(Yours sincerely)

(Sgd.) J. Fletcher- Cooke.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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COPY OF PRESS RELEASE - TO BE ISSUED
IN JERUSALEM AT 3.0 p.m. ON WEDNESDAY, 18th FEBRUARY.

(Not to be published before 9.0 a.m. New York
Time on Wednesday, 18th February)

The Government of Palestine announces that negotiations with the Supreme Moslem Council in connection with their claim for the revision, with effect from 1942, of the agreement governing annual payments in lieu of tithes have recently been brought to a conclusion and authority has been given for the payment of the arrears due.

2. It will be recalled that among the steps taken to replace tithes by a more modern system of taxation (including the enactment of a Rural Property Tax Ordinance in 1935) was an agreement between the Government of Palestine and the Supreme Moslem Council whereby the latter received an annual payment of £P30,000 in lieu of those tithes which were assigned to AWQAF under the administration of the Council.

3. In 1934, a second agreement was concluded under which it was mutually agreed that the annual rate of payment should be reconsidered if the average annual value of the produce of those lands on which assigned tithes had been payable should increase or decrease. The relevant clause in the agreement provided that revision should be considered first in respect of the period commencing on the 1st January, 1942, and thereafter every seven years.

4. The Supreme Moslem Council raised this matter with the Government of Palestine in 1942 but agreed not to press its claim for an upward revision of the annual payment at a time when the war effort required the undivided attention of all sections of the community. As a result of this, negotiations were not opened until 1945.

5. The Government of Palestine was prepared to admit that a substantial upward revision of this annual payment was justified in view of the considerable increases in agricultural prices and production which had taken place between 1934 and 1942, but lengthy discussions were necessary before agreement could be reached as to the method by which the value of these increases could be estimated and its exact monetary value determined. As a result of these discussions, an agreement between the Supreme Moslem Council and the Government of Palestine was signed on 10th January, 1946, under which it was agreed that the annual payment for the seven financial years 1942/43 to 1947/48 should be increased to £P80,000, and the necessary financial provision has now been approved.

6. Steps are being taken to discharge the Government of Palestine's contractual obligations in this matter and to pay to the Supreme Moslem Council arrears of £P200,000 due in respect of the six financial years 1942/43 to 1946/47. The Government of Palestine has agreed to pay these arrears in one instalment in view of the delay which has already occurred and having regard to the pressing need for expenditure in connection with the maintenance of various institutions and for other religious purposes to which the funds at the disposal of the Council are dedicated. In particular, the sum now to be paid will assist the Council to face the very considerable expenditure required for the maintenance of religious buildings, which is an aftermath of the shortage of funds, labour, and building materials during the war years. Among the projects which the Council now has in hand are extensive repairs to the Dome of the Rock and other religious buildings, in accordance with recommendations contained in reports which have been prepared by experts. The money will also be spent on the conversion of certain buildings in Jaffa (the property of the Supreme Moslem Council) so as to enable them to earn revenue for current needs, and also on the provision of a new Moslem orphanage more suitable than the existing one in the Old City.

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)
17th February, 1948.

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Draft.

NEW YORK

Telegram.

No. 691

(Date) February 15, 1948

Repeat to:—

Jerusalem,

Washington. 18 18

Cairo 16 SAV

Bagdad 5 SAV

Beirut 10 SAV

Jedda 10 SAV

Damascus 9 SAV

Amman 8 SAV

14 SAV

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Cypher.

Distribution:—

Diplomatic.

Palestine circulation.

Copies to:—

F.O.,

15 February, 1948.

Despatched 12.45 P.M.

~~TOP SECRET~~
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Addressed to U.K. Delegation, New York Tel. No. 691 of February 14^a repeated for information to Jerusalem and Washington. Your telegram No. 166 paragraph 3

[of 22nd January: documents given to U.N. Palestine Commission,] and my telegram No. 359, paragraph 4.

We think there would be advantage in giving the Arab Governments copies of the documents which you are at present communicating to the delegations of the United States and the English-speaking Dominions.

2. Unless you see strong objection, please therefore send copies of both past and future documents to which you give any circulation beyond the Commission itself to: Cairo, Bagdad, Jedda, Beirut, Damascus and Amman.

3. This will entail giving documents also to Pakistan and India. ^{this} you would presumably do ^{this} through the delegations in New York.

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FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 691

14th February, 1948. D. 12.45 p.m. 15th February, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem

Washington No. 1878 *
Cairo No. 16)
Bagdad No. 5)
Beirut No. 10)
Jedda No. 10) SAVING
Damascus No. 9)
Amman No. 8)
B.M.E.O. No. 48)

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* Addressed to United Kingdom Delegation New York telegram No. 691 of February 14th repeated for information to Jerusalem and Washington and Saving to Cairo, Bagdad, Beirut, Jedda, Damascus, Amman and B.M.E.O.

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